

NATIONAL

QUALITY
COMIC
GROUP

I.C.D.
4

APRIL
No.71

COMICS

10^c

The
BARKER
outspiels
**SPELLBINDER
SMITH!**

IS THERE A
SWEETHEART IN
YOUR FUTURE?
MADAME ZURK'S
CRYSTAL BALL
WILL TELL!



GILL
FOX



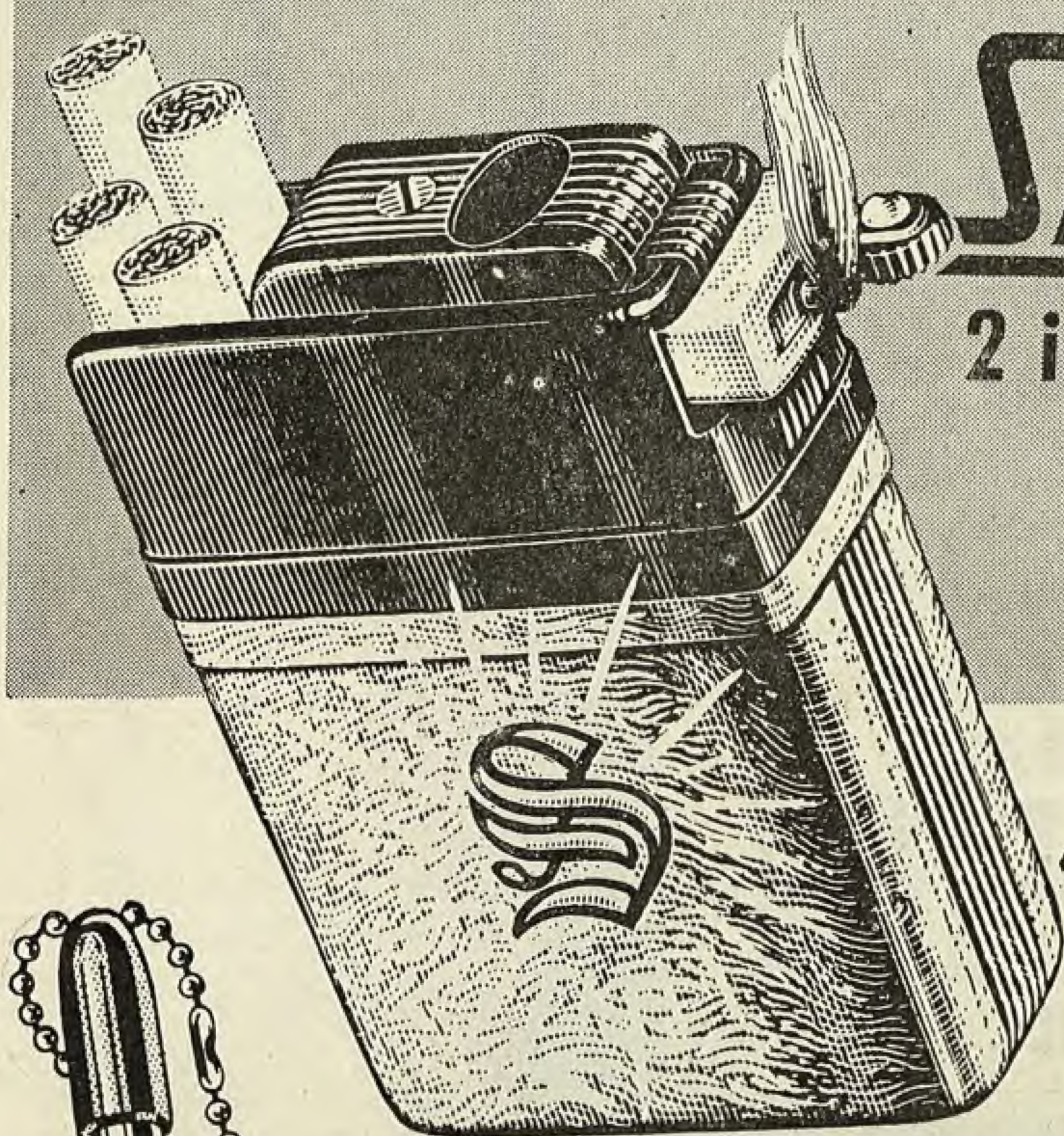
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It's Available Now!

THE *Slide-o-matic*

**2 in 1 COMBINATION LIGHTER
and CIGARETTE CASE**



Works like magic. A flip of the finger gives you both the cigarette and lighter. This amazing two-in-one combination cigarette case and metal lighter is made of durable two-tone plastic and metal. Holds full pack of cigarettes and keeps them fresh. Extra large fluid capacity lighter guaranteed to work every time.

And—at no extra cost—your cigarette case will be monogrammed with your own initial, in ornamental lettering that GLOWS IN THE DARK.

**If you order today
this pen is yours!
WORLD'S SMALLEST
BALL POINT PEN**

Small enough to fit coin purse or vest pocket...big enough to write for months without a refill. Handy chain for keys.



**SURE-FIRE
CIGARETTE
LIGHTER**



**CIGARETTE CASE
WITH GLOW-IN-
THE-DARK INITIAL**



**HANDY KEY CHAIN
& BALL POINT PEN**

ALL 3
for only

\$1.98

**TRY FOR 10 DAYS
AT NO COST TO YOU**

Simply send your name and address and initial wanted. Pay postman \$1.98 plus postage on arrival. Or send \$1.98 with order, and lighter case with glowing monogram and pen will be shipped prepaid. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. The smartest, most useful, most ingenious new invention for cigarette smokers... a beautiful, colorful, two-tone combination lighter built on an entirely new principle. Just imagine... only one motion of the finger gives you both the cigarettes and the lighter. It is a startling improvement over anything else you have ever seen... a wonderful necessity for every cigarette smoker. **EXTRA SURPRISE:** you'll find that the cigarette case has been monogrammed with your own initial in an ornamental letter which glows in the dark.

E-Z INDUSTRIES

1226 N. Western Ave.

Chicago 22, Ill.

SEND NO MONEY

E-Z INDUSTRIES, DEPT. NM
1226 N. Western Ave., Chicago 22, Ill.

Please rush _____ lighter cigarette case combination
plus ball point pen on key chain, all for \$1.98.

My initial is _____ payment in full. Ship

☐ I enclose \$ _____
postpaid.

☐ Ship COD—I will pay charges plus postage.

NAME _____ (PRINT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

The

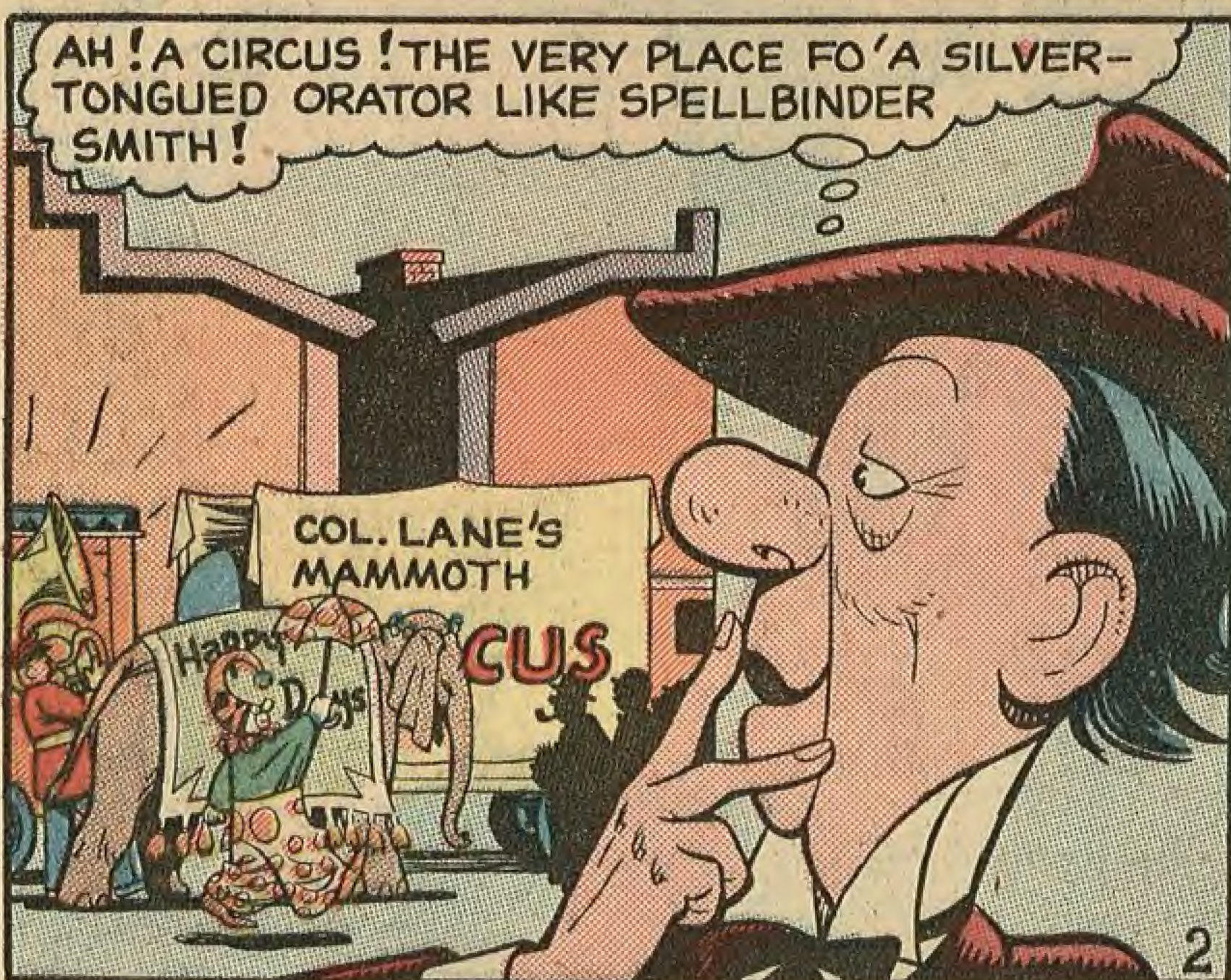
BARKER

AND WHAT'S MO', MAH FELLOW CITIZENS,
IF YO' VOTE FO' ME AH'LL SEE TO IT THAT
Y'ALL GET SIRLOIN STEAK THREE TIMES
A DAY!

COLONEL
LANE'S
MAMMOTH
CIRCUS



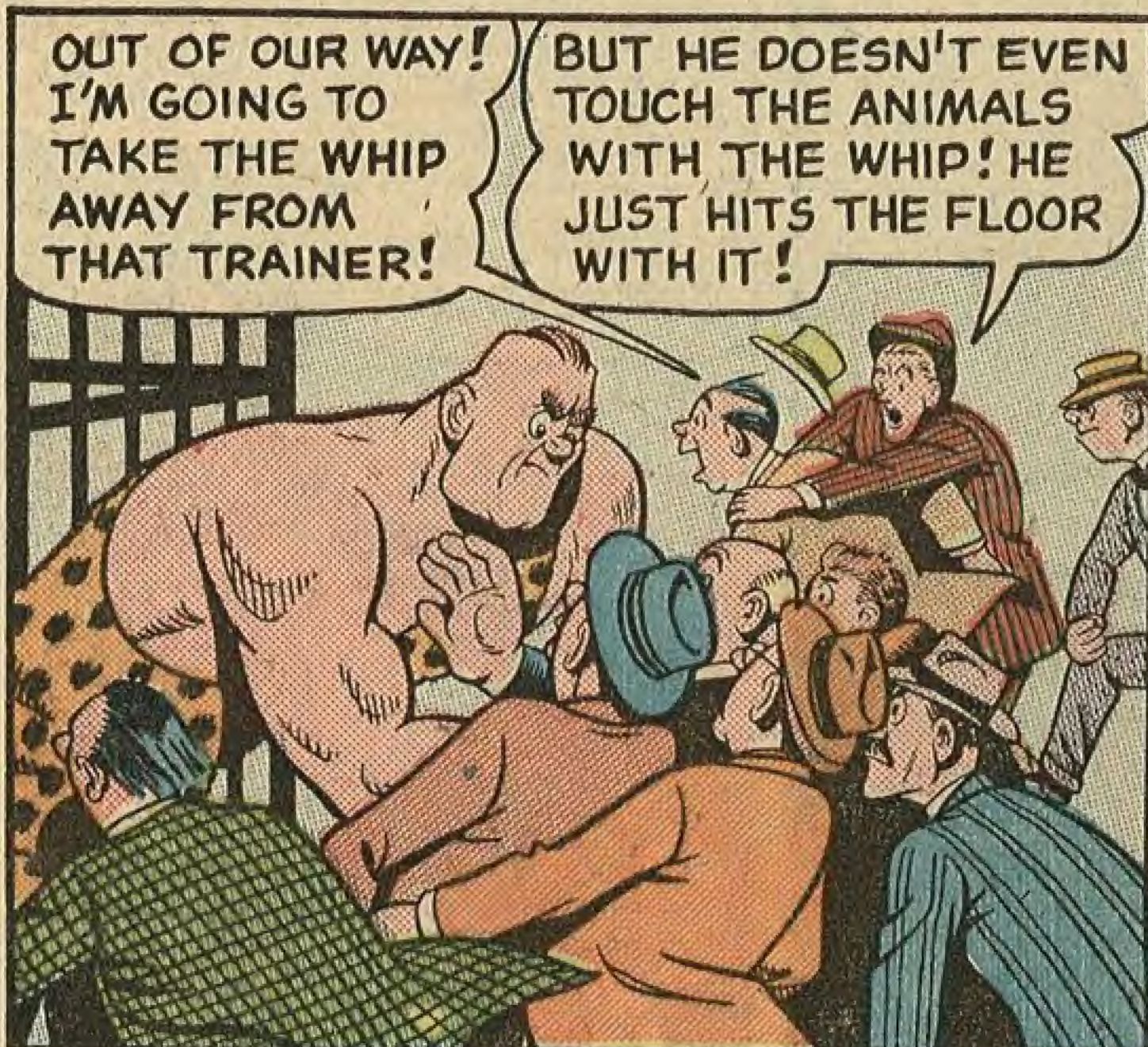
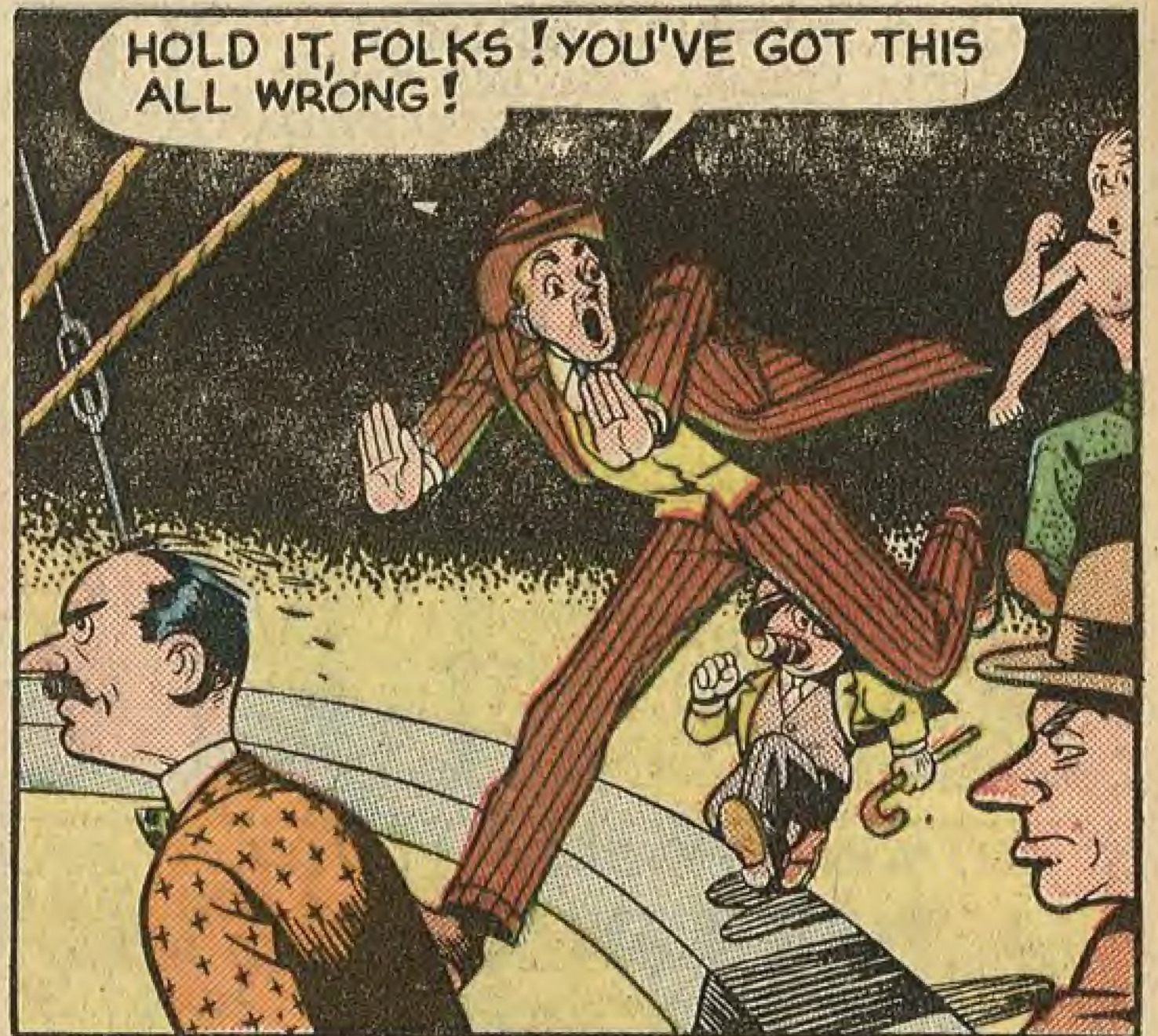
By Klaus Nordling













SEE THAT? THE POOR CREATURE HAS BEEN MADE SO NERVOUS THAT HE'S BITING HIS FRIENDS!



And outside the circus...

OUCH!
HALP!

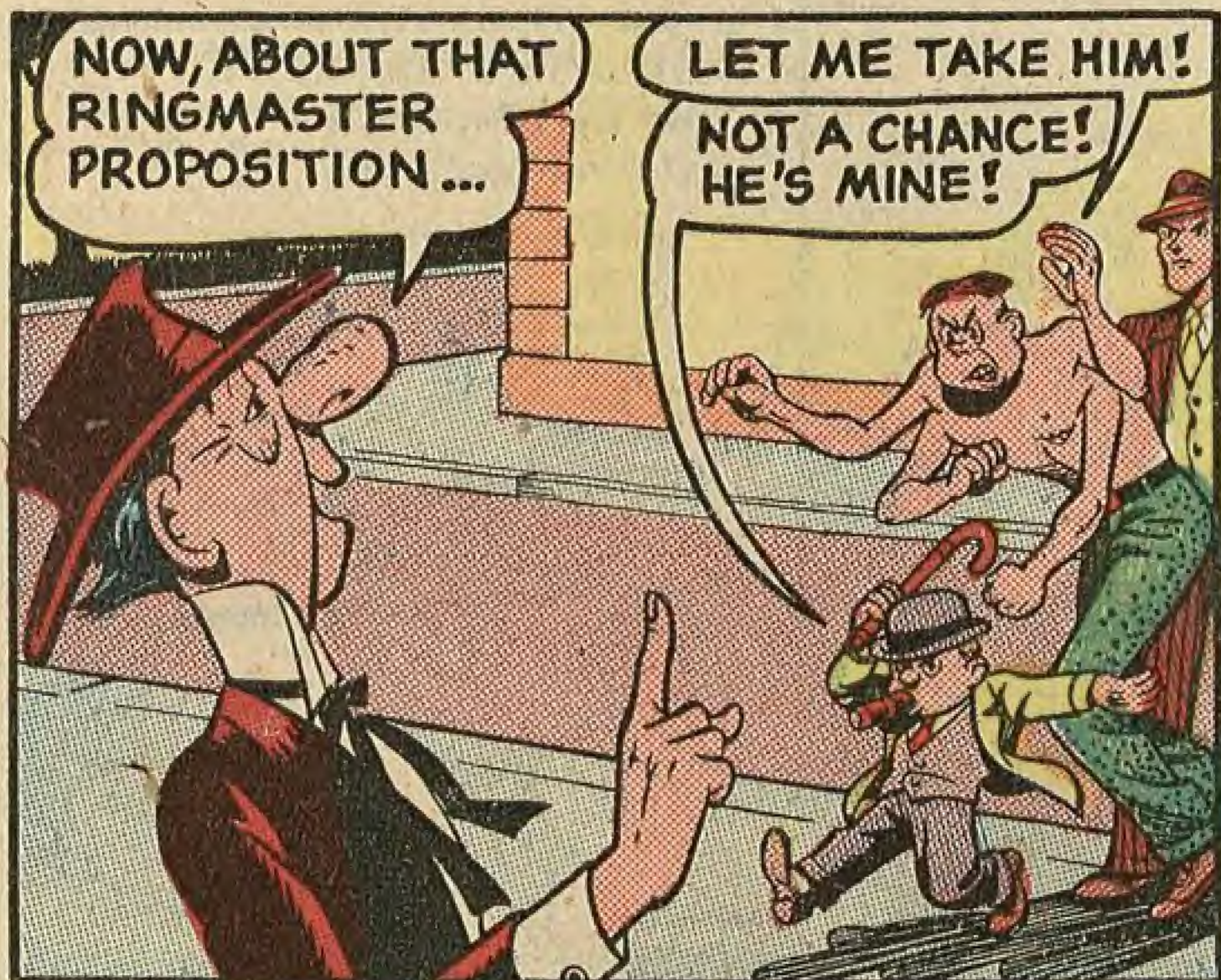
PLEASE, FOLKS...
LISTEN TO REASON!

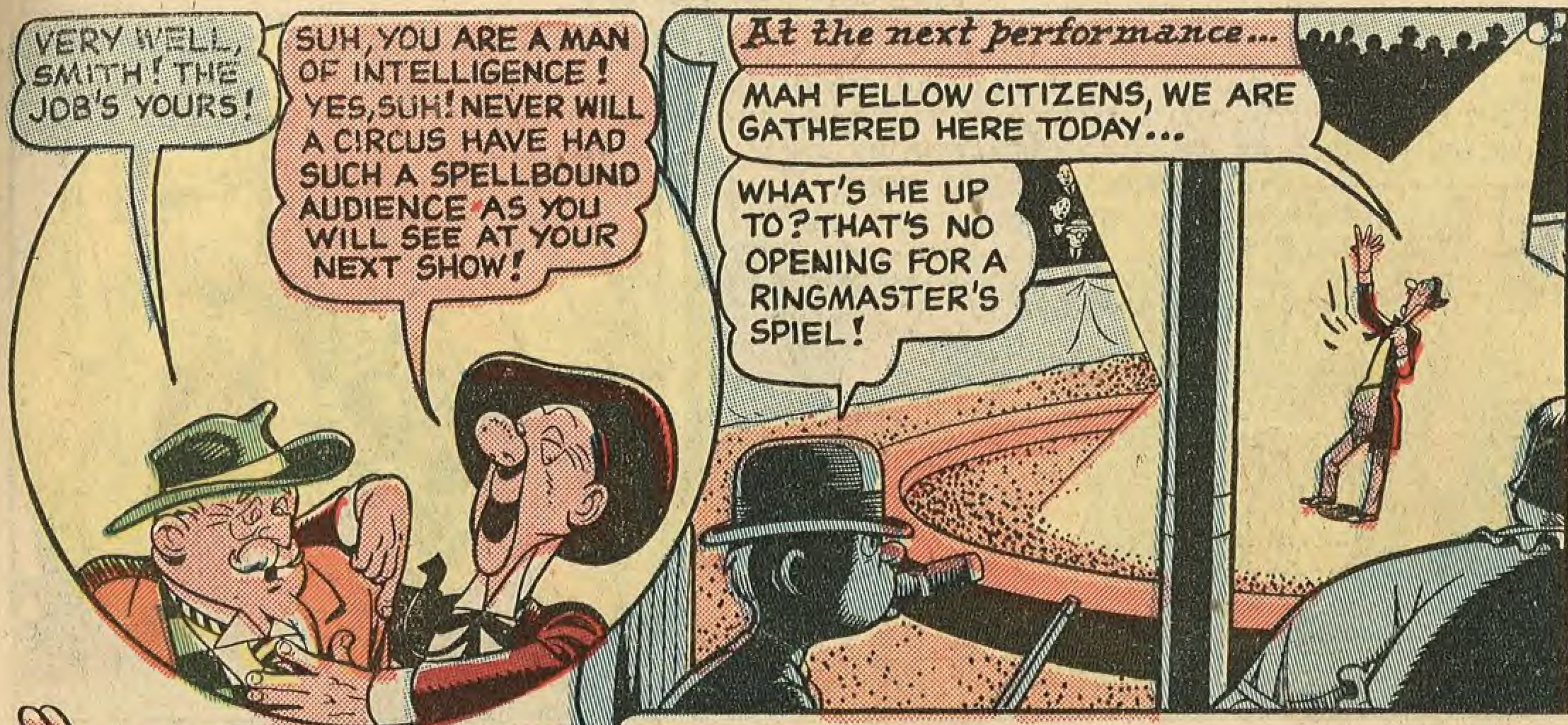
SOUNDS LIKE
A RIOT IN
THERE!

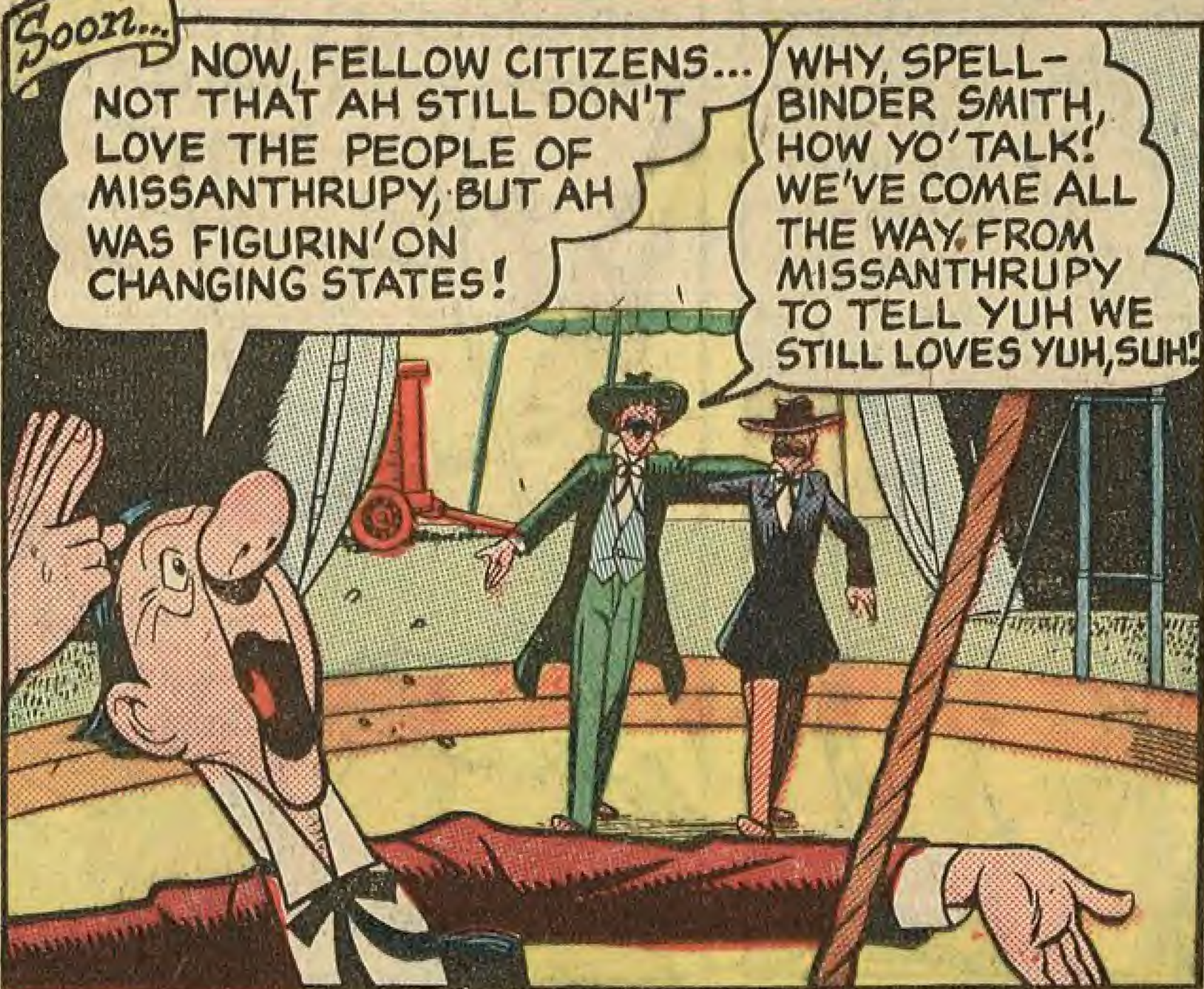


QUIET! EVERYBODY CLEAR OUT!
WE'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM
OF THIS IN THE COURTROOM!

BUT WE
DIDN'T
DO ANY-
THING!







NOW THERE'S EVIDENCE FO' Y'ALL OF THE SPOT AH OCCUPIES IN THE HEARTS OF MAH CONSTITUENTS!

WE WANT SMITH! WE WANT SMITH!

JUPITER! THINGS ARE GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE! WHERE'S CARNIE?

TELL 'EM MORE ABOUT YO'-SELF, SPELLBINDER... THEY'S SO ENTHUSIASTIC THEY AIN'T A-GIVIN' YO' A CHANCE TO TALK!

YO'RE SO RIGHT! MAH FELLOW CITIZENS...



WE WANT SMITH!

THE REST OF HIS CONSTITUENTS WILL BE HERE SOON... THEY'RE FLYING AND IT TAKES HALF AN HOUR!

WE WANT SMITH!

WE WANT HIM TOO!

GULP! THE SHERIFF OF SHENANIGAN COUNTY AND HIS DEPPITIES!

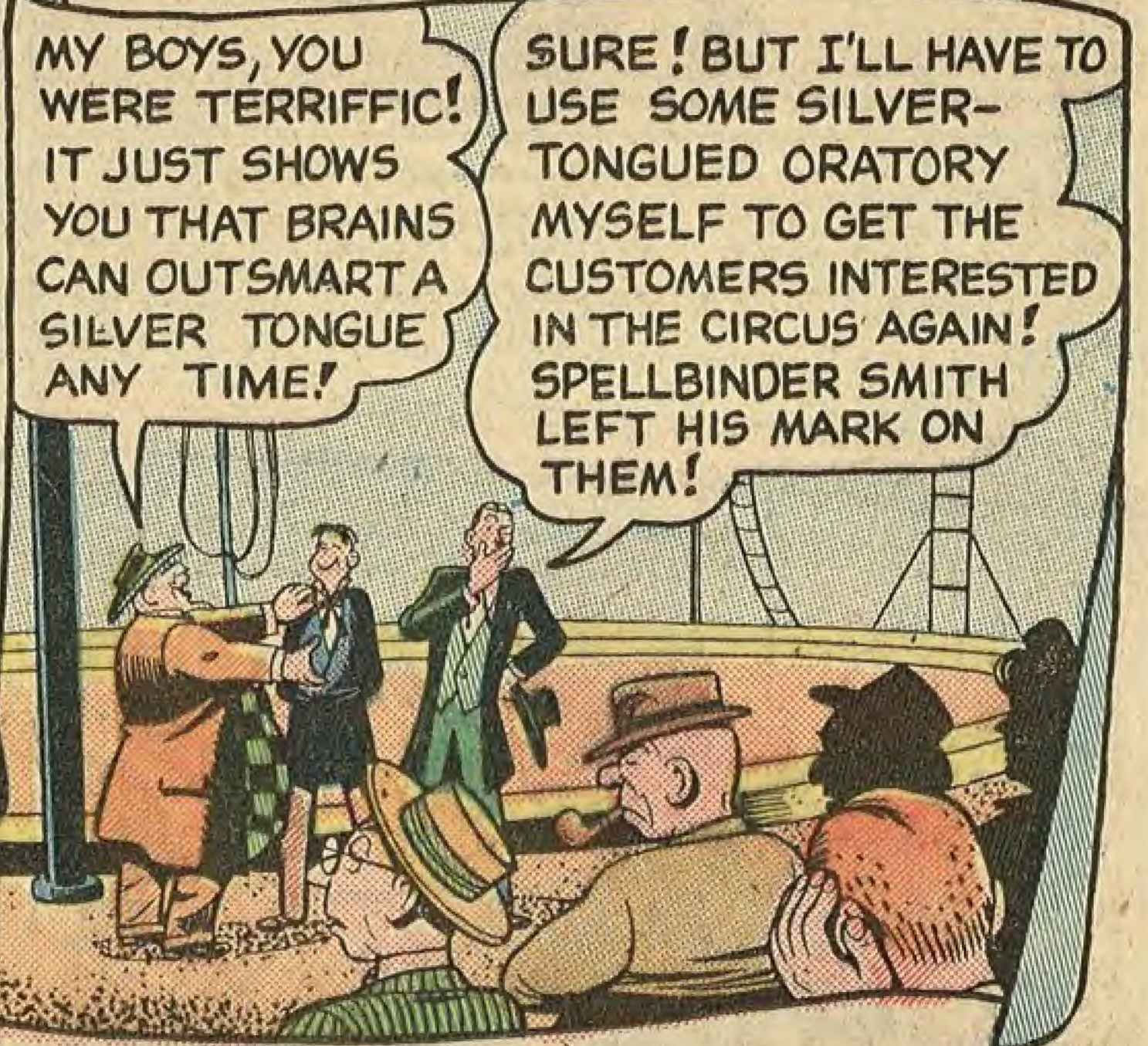


RELAX, FOLKS! HE'S SHO' ENUF NO BARGAIN, BUT WE'VE KEPT A CELL IN OUR JAIL NICE AND DIRTY FO' HIM FO' A LONG TIME AND WE'VE GOT TO USE IT!

THAT'S RIGHT! HE STOLE EVERYTHING IN MISSANTHRUPY, AND THEN EVEN AFTER WE VOTED HIM OUT OF OFFICE HE STILL TRIED TO REPRESENT US!

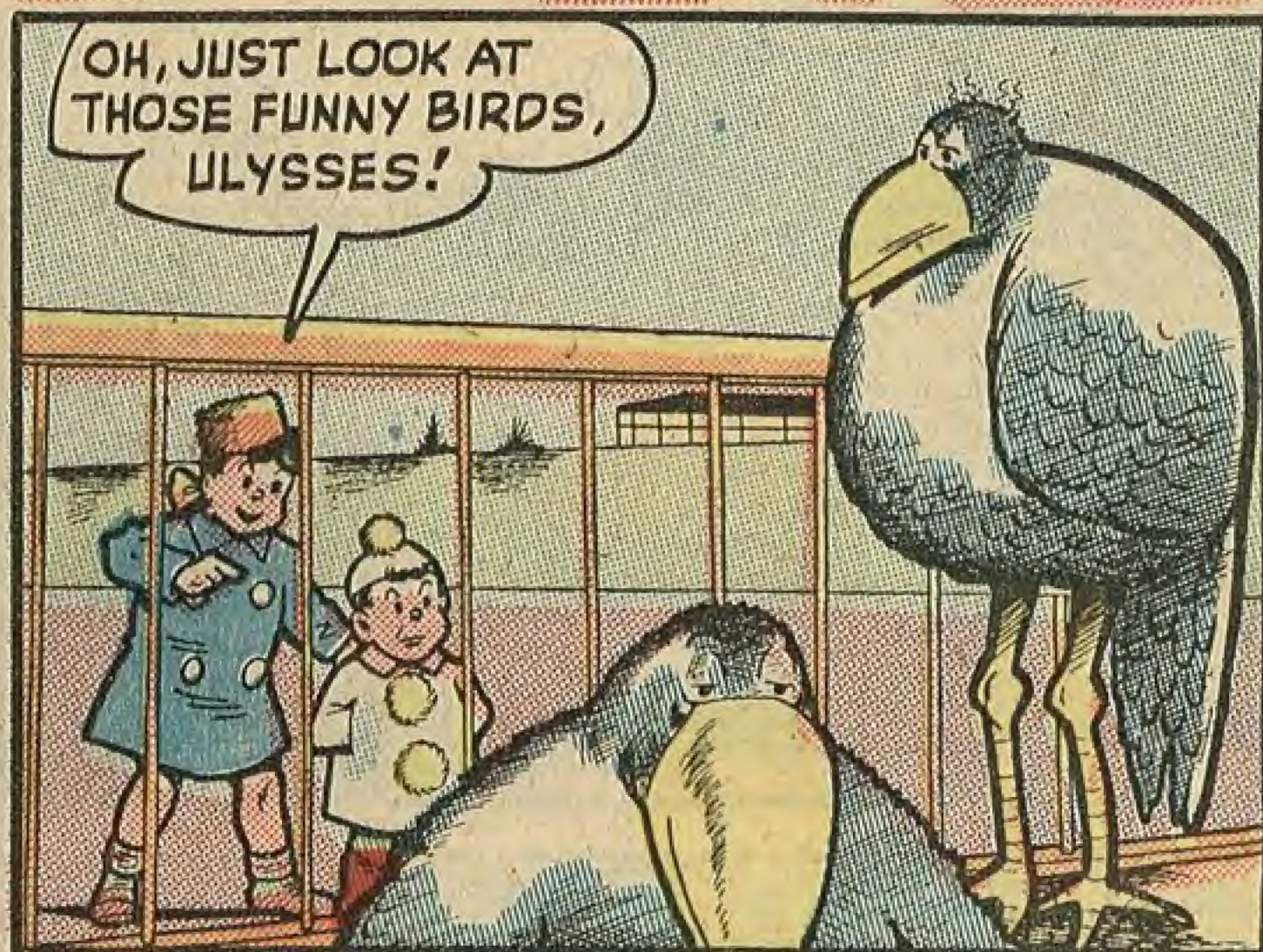
MY BOYS, YOU WERE TERRIFFIC! IT JUST SHOWS YOU THAT BRAINS CAN OUTSMART A SILVER TONGUE ANY TIME!

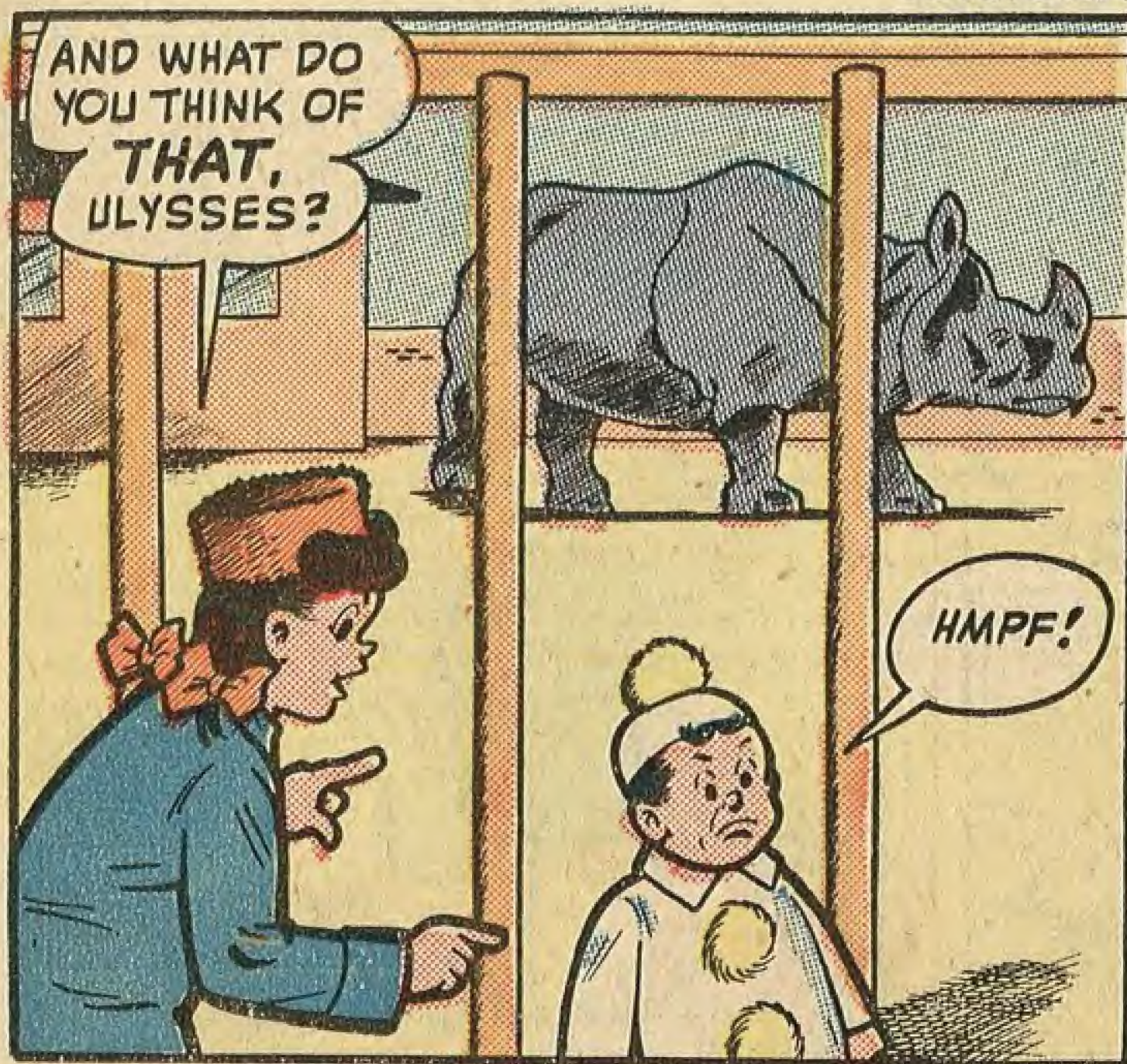
SURE! BUT I'LL HAVE TO USE SOME SILVER-TONGUED ORATORY MYSELF TO GET THE CUSTOMERS INTERESTED IN THE CIRCUS AGAIN! SPELLBINDER SMITH LEFT HIS MARK ON THEM!



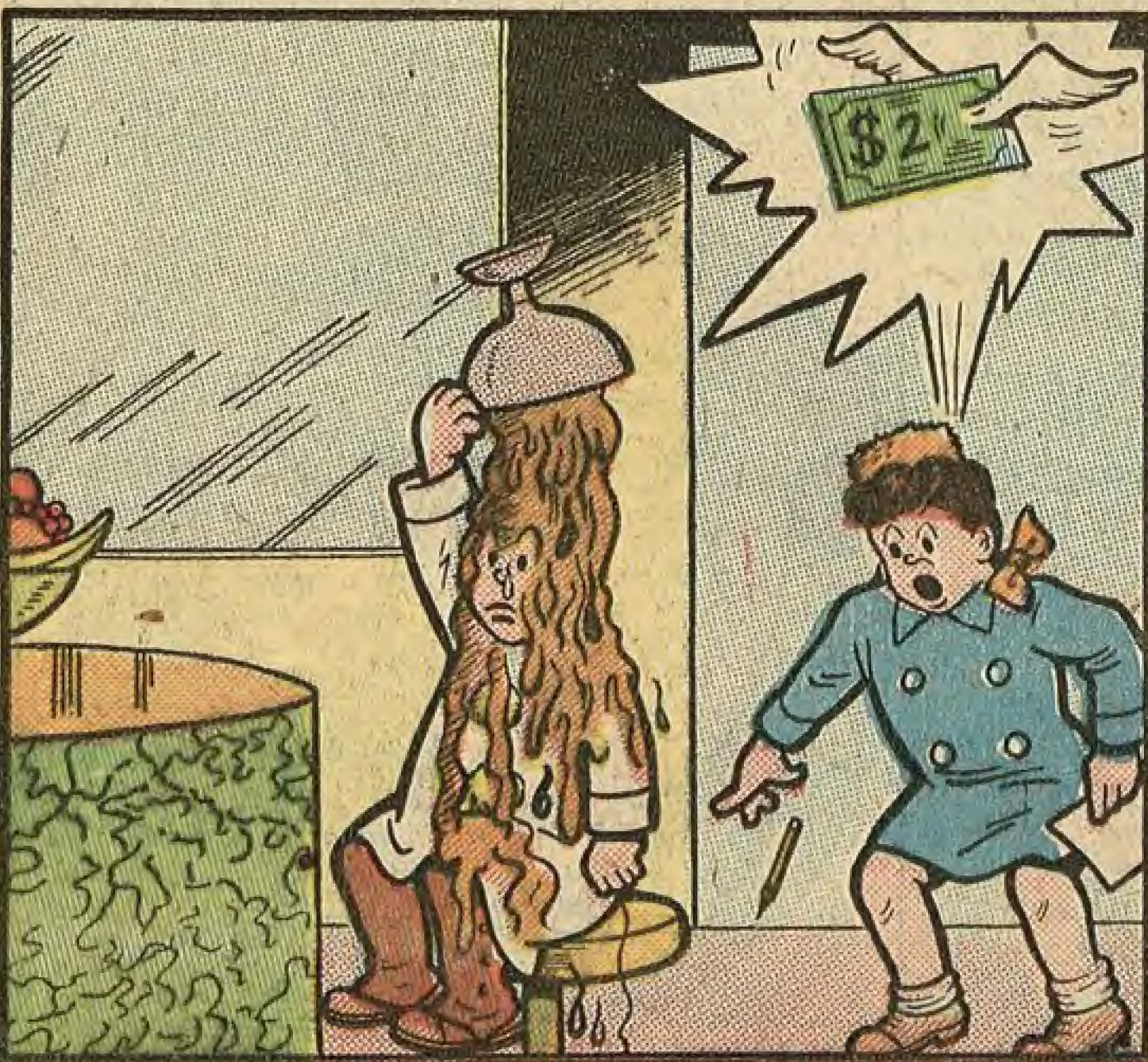


LASSIE









I'M SO GLAD WE DECIDED TO BUILD A SUMMER HOUSE, MIGGS! WHENEVER I START SOMETHING NEW, IT GIVES ME A LIFT!



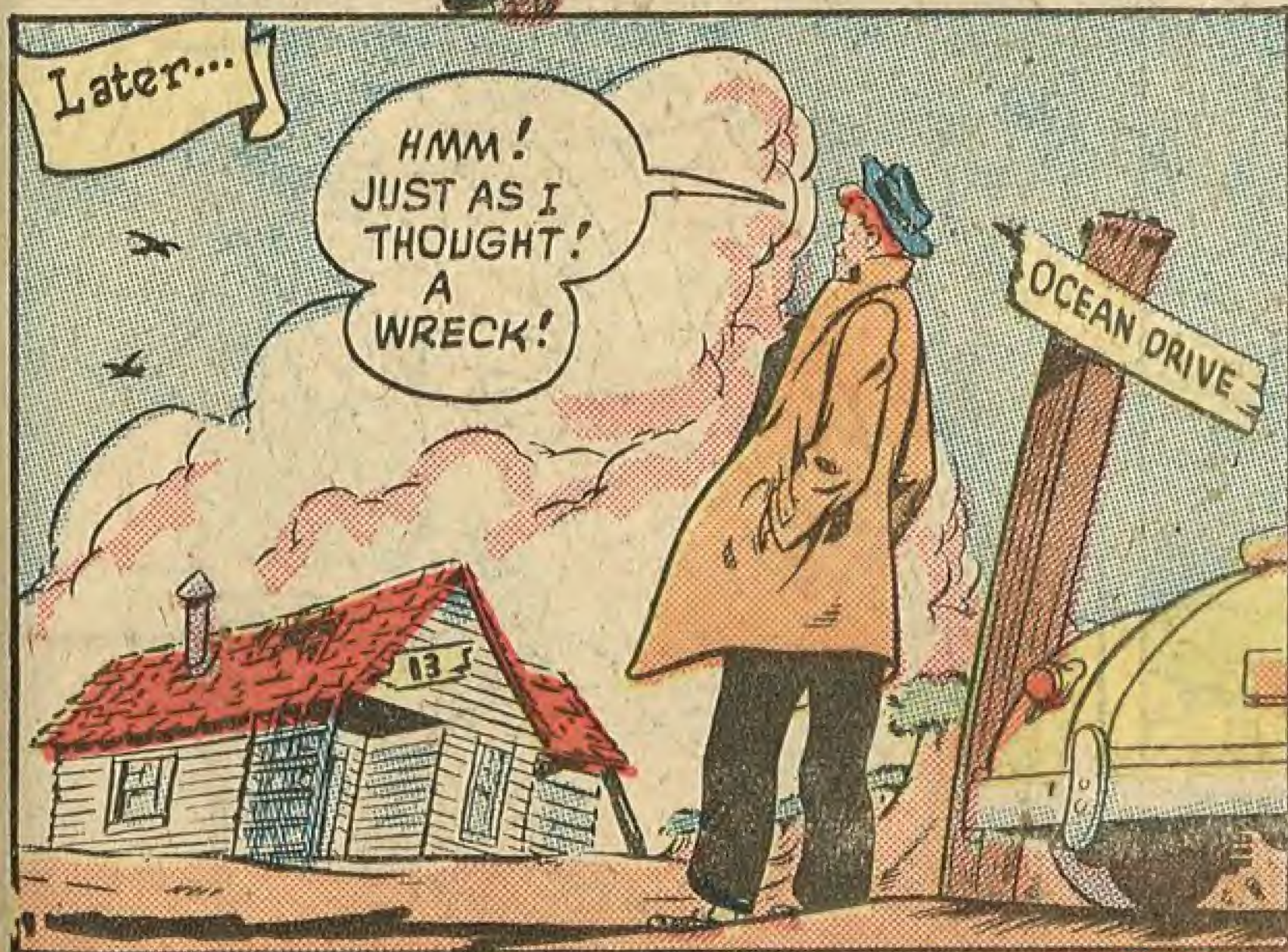
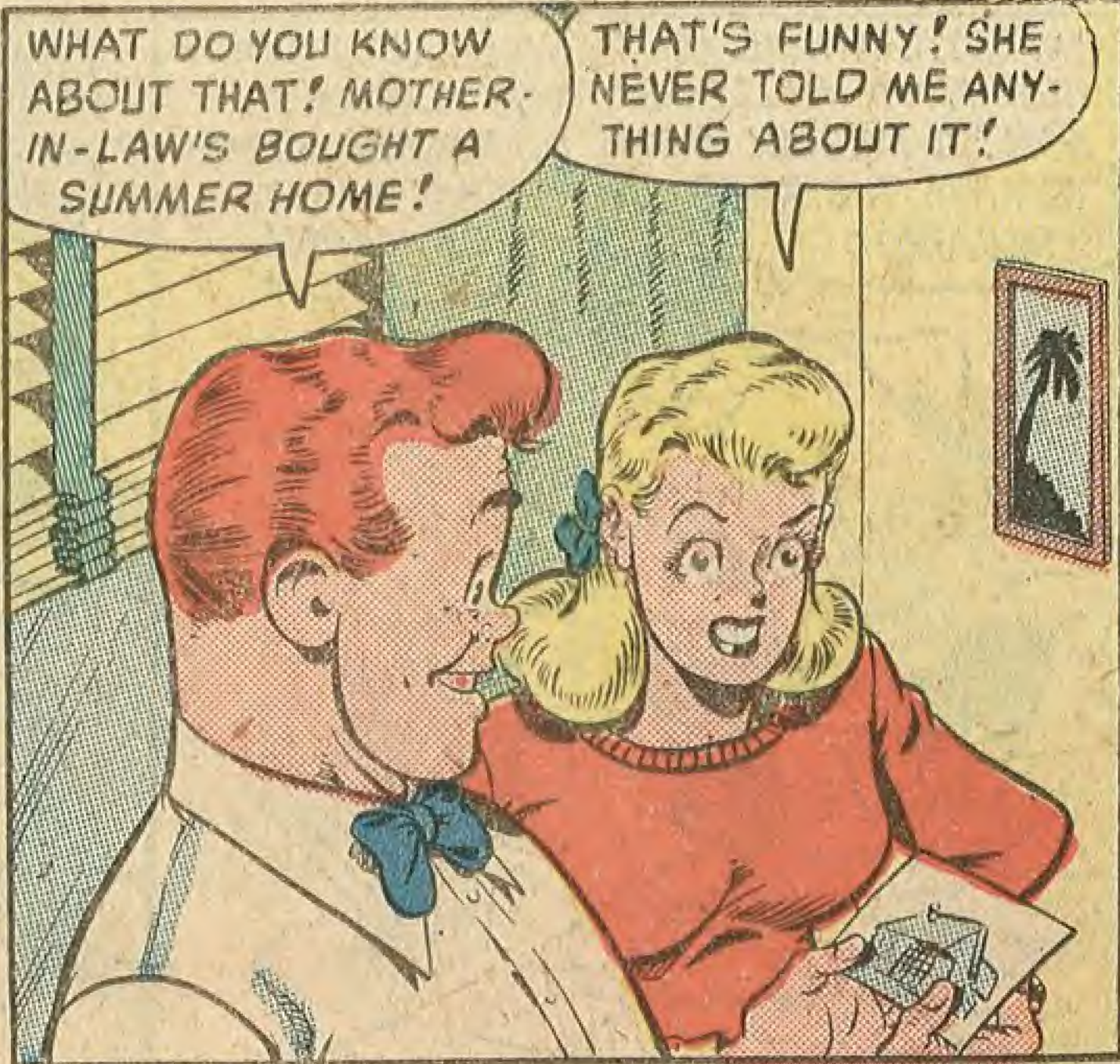
HEY, MIGGS! HERE'S A CARD FOR MOTHER-IN-LAW! POSTMAN TELLS ME SHE WANTED HER MAIL LEFT HERE FOR A FEW DAYS!

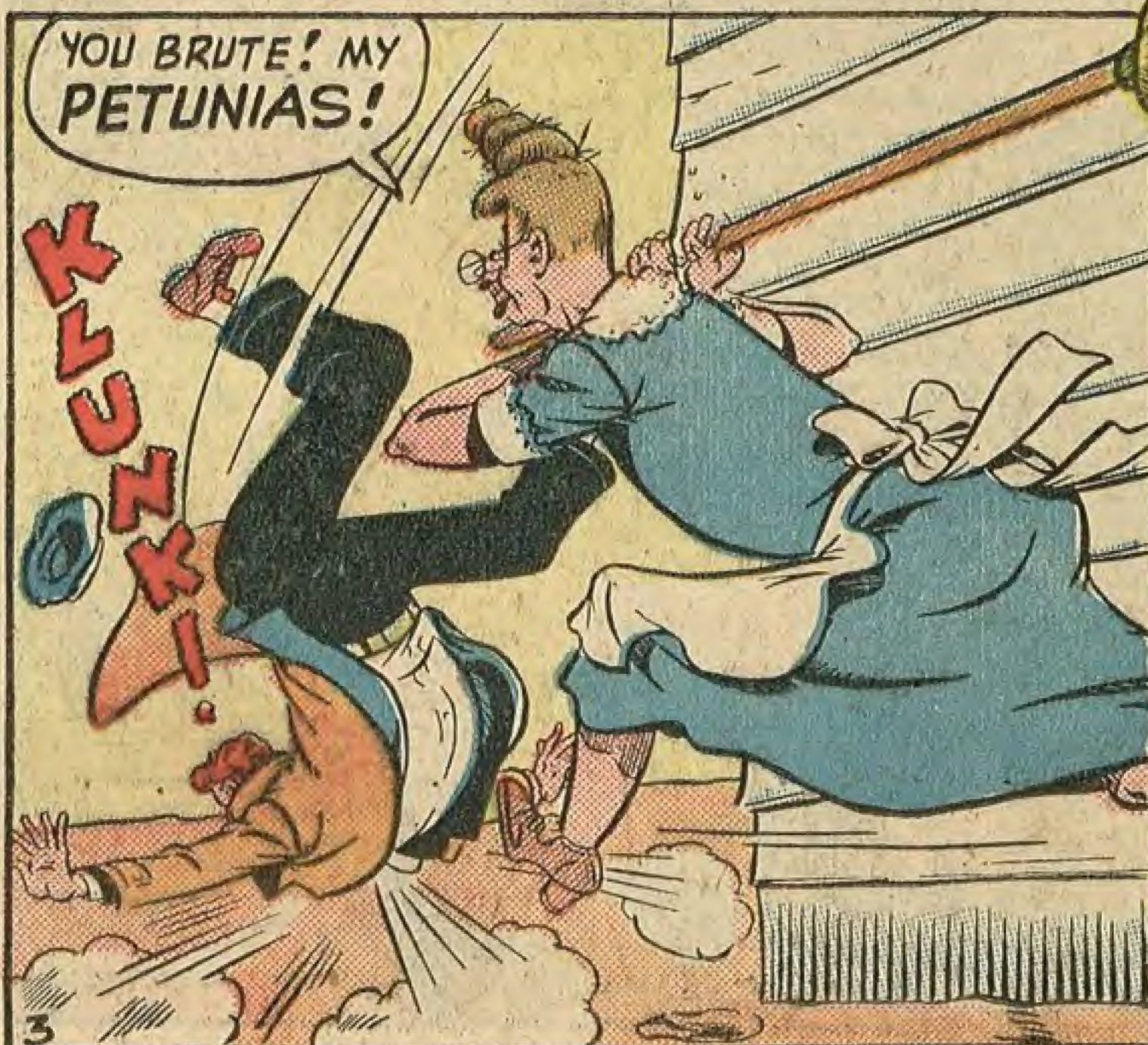
YES, HONEYBUN! SHE'S VISITING AUNT EMMA IN CRANFIELD, BUT SHE MIGHT BE BACK TODAY OR TOMORROW!

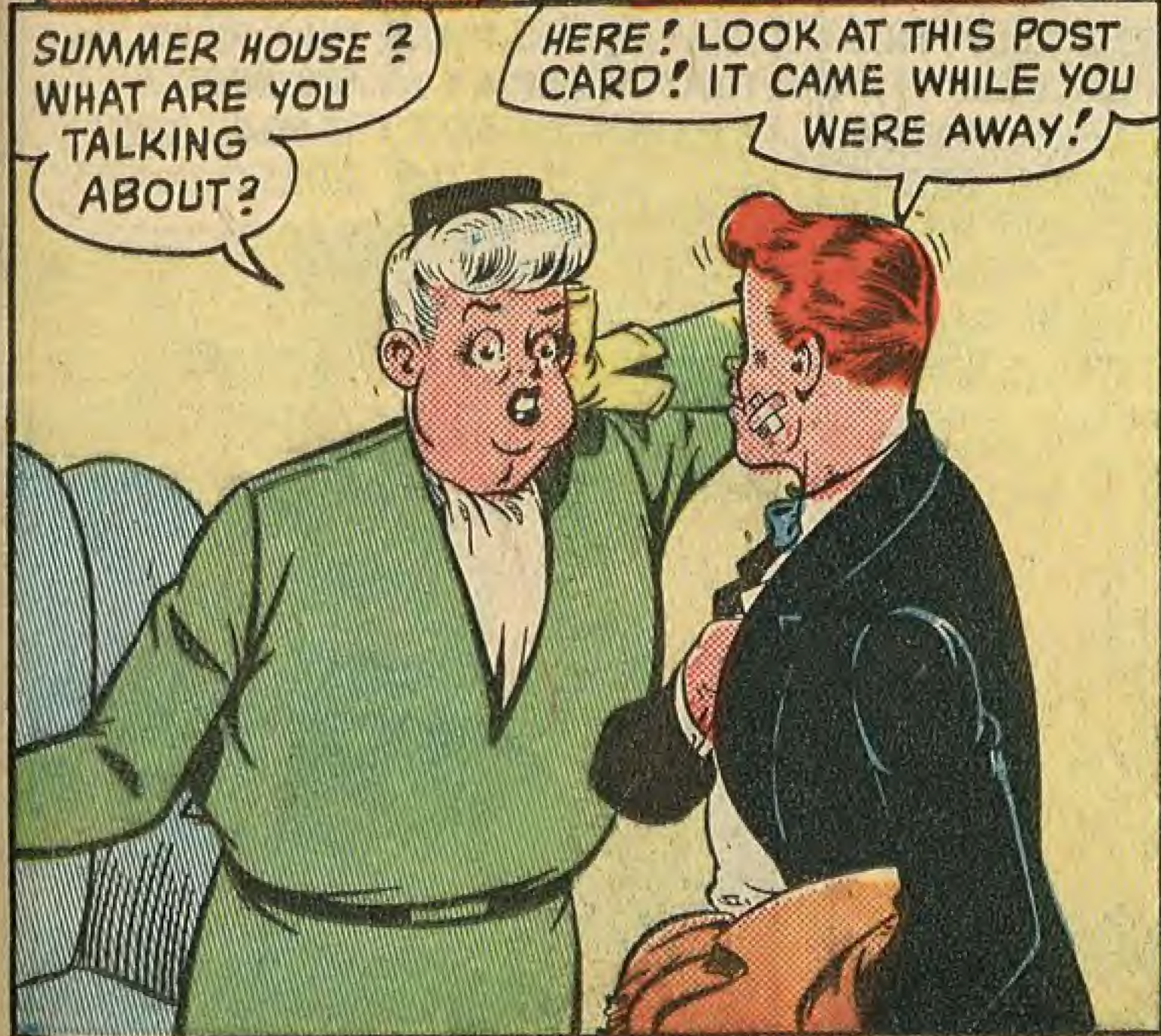
HMMM...THE CARD'S FROM I. CHEATUM, REAL ESTATE AGENT!

HONEYBUN! IT ISN'T NICE TO READ SOMEONE ELSE'S MAIL!



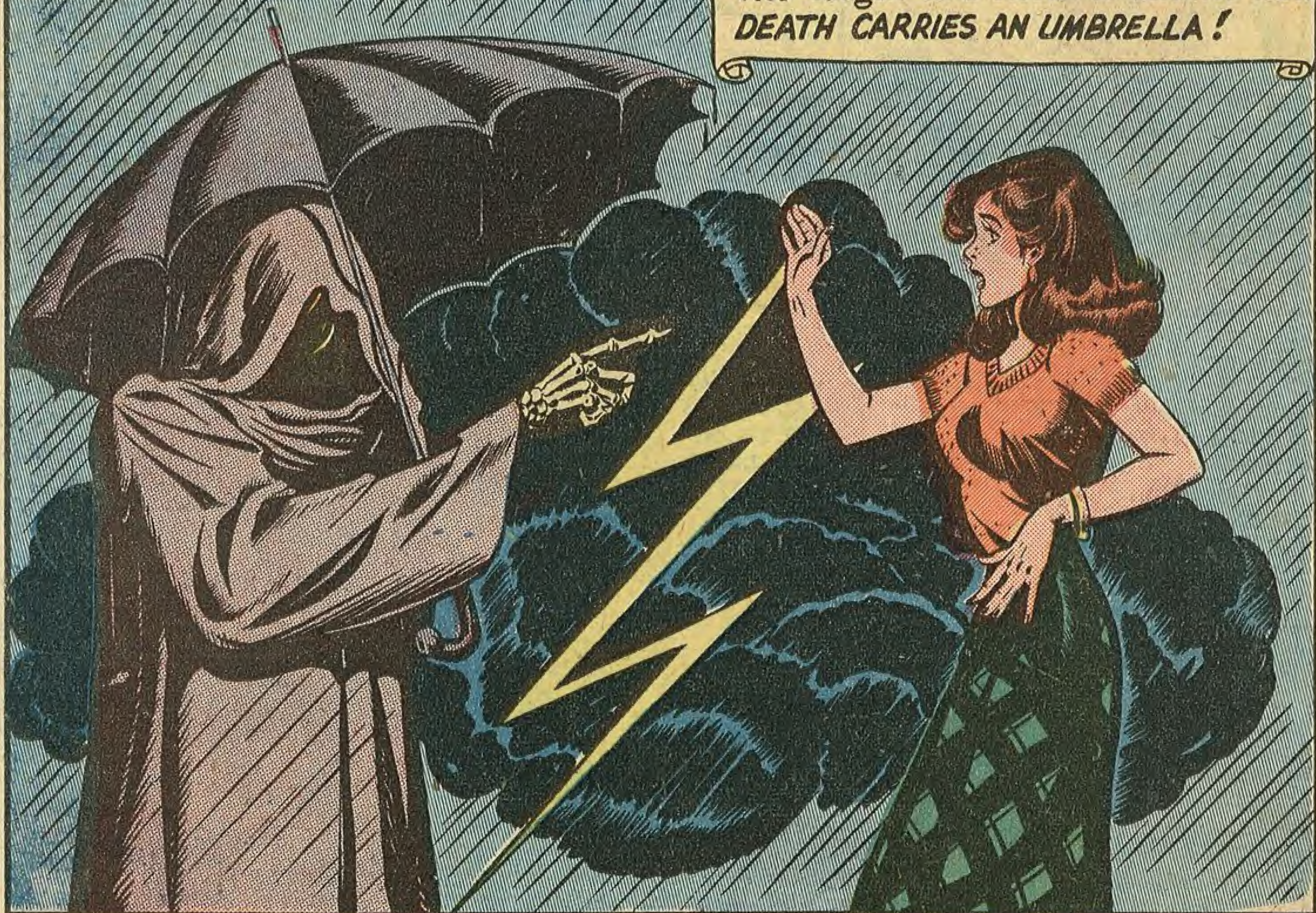






SALLY O'NEIL

SALLY O'NEIL, policewoman, finds herself caught in a storm of disaster when **DEATH CARRIES AN UMBRELLA!**



IT WAS A RAINY MONDAY WHEN I ENTERED THE CHIEF'S OFFICE, CARRYING AN UMBRELLA, WHICH I HAD NEVER THEN THOUGHT OF AS A SECRET INSTRUMENT OF DEATH!

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, CHIEF?

YES, SALLY! THIS IS MR. WRIGHT, HILLORY STONE'S PERSONAL SECRETARY! HE THINKS THERE'S TROUBLE BREWING AT THE STONE'S AND...

HELLO! WHAT'S THAT? FLAVIAN STONE'S **DEAD**?

OH, OH! IT SOUNDS AS IF THE BREW'S BOILED OVER!





YOU'D BETTER GO WITH MR. WRIGHT, SALLY! I'LL SEND THE CORONER!

BUT WHY FLAVIAN? IT WAS MR. HILLORY STONE WHO WAS IN DANGER!



WHAT *DANGER* WERE YOU REFERRING TO, MR. WRIGHT?

I SUSPECT THOSE RELATIVES WHO STAND TO INHERIT THE OLD MAN'S FORTUNE OF PLOTTING TO GET RID OF HIM! MR. STONE AGREES WITH ME!



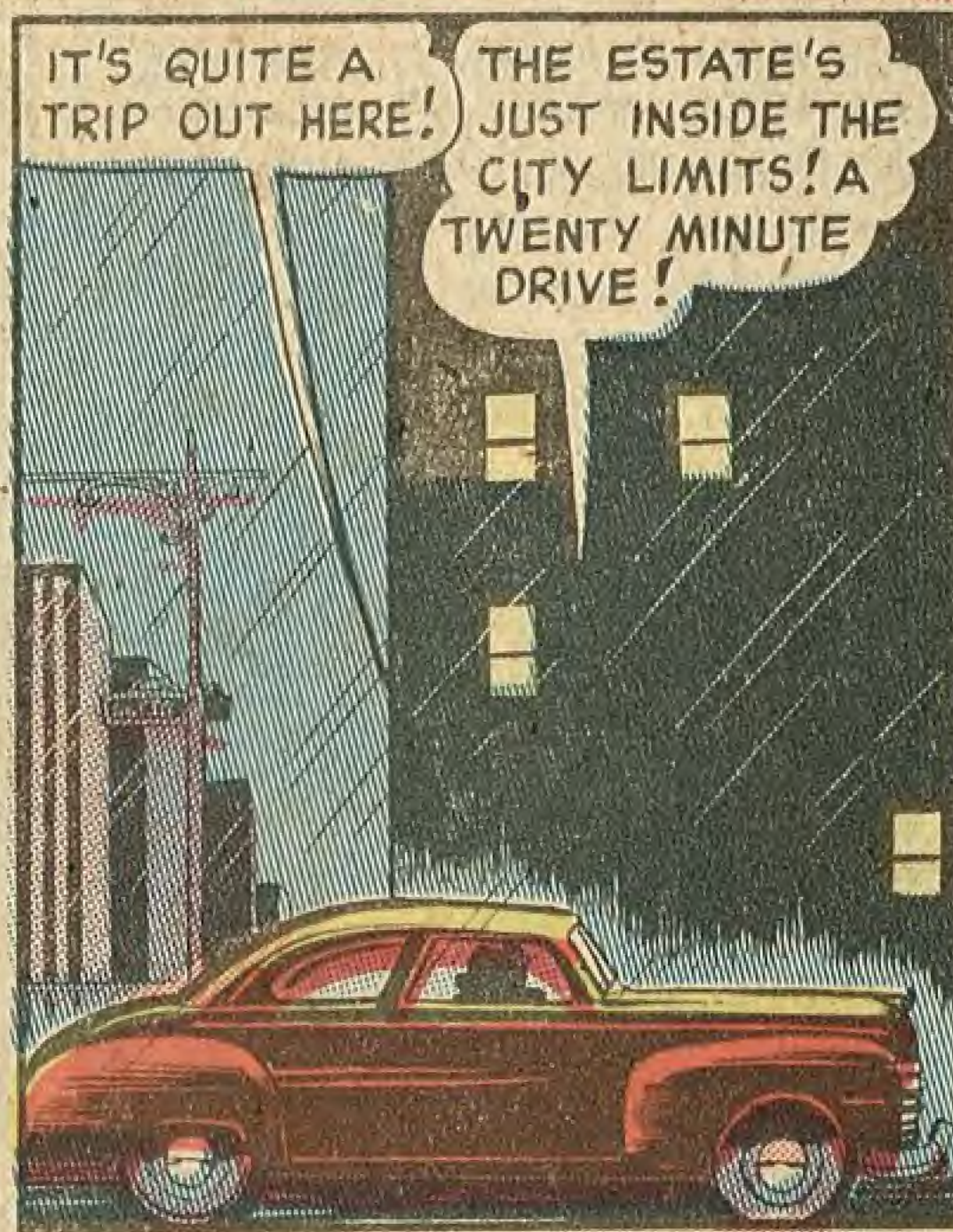
WHO ARE THE HEIRS?

HIS STEPCHILDREN, FLAVIAN AND ALICIA, AND HIS NEPHEW RUDLEY... AN UNHOLY TRIO! OF COURSE, THEY COME BY IT NATURALLY! MR. STONE DIDN'T ACQUIRE HIS WEALTH THROUGH HONESTY!



DO YOU THINK SOMEONE KILLED FLAVIAN?

CONSIDERING THE WAY THEY MISTRUST EACH OTHER, IT'S LIKELY!



IT'S QUITE A TRIP OUT HERE!

THE ESTATE'S JUST INSIDE THE CITY LIMITS! A TWENTY MINUTE DRIVE!



WELL, HERE WE ARE, MISS O'NEIL! I CAN'T SAY THIS PLACE IS A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES!

NOR CAN I, MR. WRIGHT!



YOU PROBABLY WON'T GET A WARM RECEPTION INSIDE!

LEAD ON! I'M PREPARED TO MEET THE COLD, COLD STONE'S!

I'D LIKE TO PRESENT MISS SALLY O'NEIL, POLICEWOMAN... MISS ALICIA, MR. HILLORY, AND MR. RUDLEY STONE!

MR. WRIGHT DIDN'T EXAGGERATE! WHAT EVIL-LOOKING PEOPLE THEY ARE!

HMMPH! POLICEWOMAN, INDEED! WHY DON'T YOU AND THAT CORONER MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

THEN THE CORONER'S ARRIVED? I WONDER HOW HE GOT HERE SO QUICKLY! WILL YOU TAKE ME TO HIM?

THIS MAN FLAVIAN HAS BEEN DEAD ABOUT AN HOUR! DEATH WAS CAUSED BY A SHARP, THIN INSTRUMENT THROUGH HIS HEART... PERHAPS AN ICE PICK!

AND THE WEAPON'S MISSING, SO IT MUST BE MURDER! I'LL REPORT IT!

YES, CHIEF, FLAVIAN STONE WAS MURDERED! SEND THE HOMICIDE SQUAD!

IT MIGHT ALSO INTEREST YOU TO KNOW THAT FLAVIAN HAD A NATURAL APTITUDE FOR BLACKMAIL! MAYBE SOMEBODY WAS TIRED OF PAYING OFF!

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT! I WAS, FOR ONE!

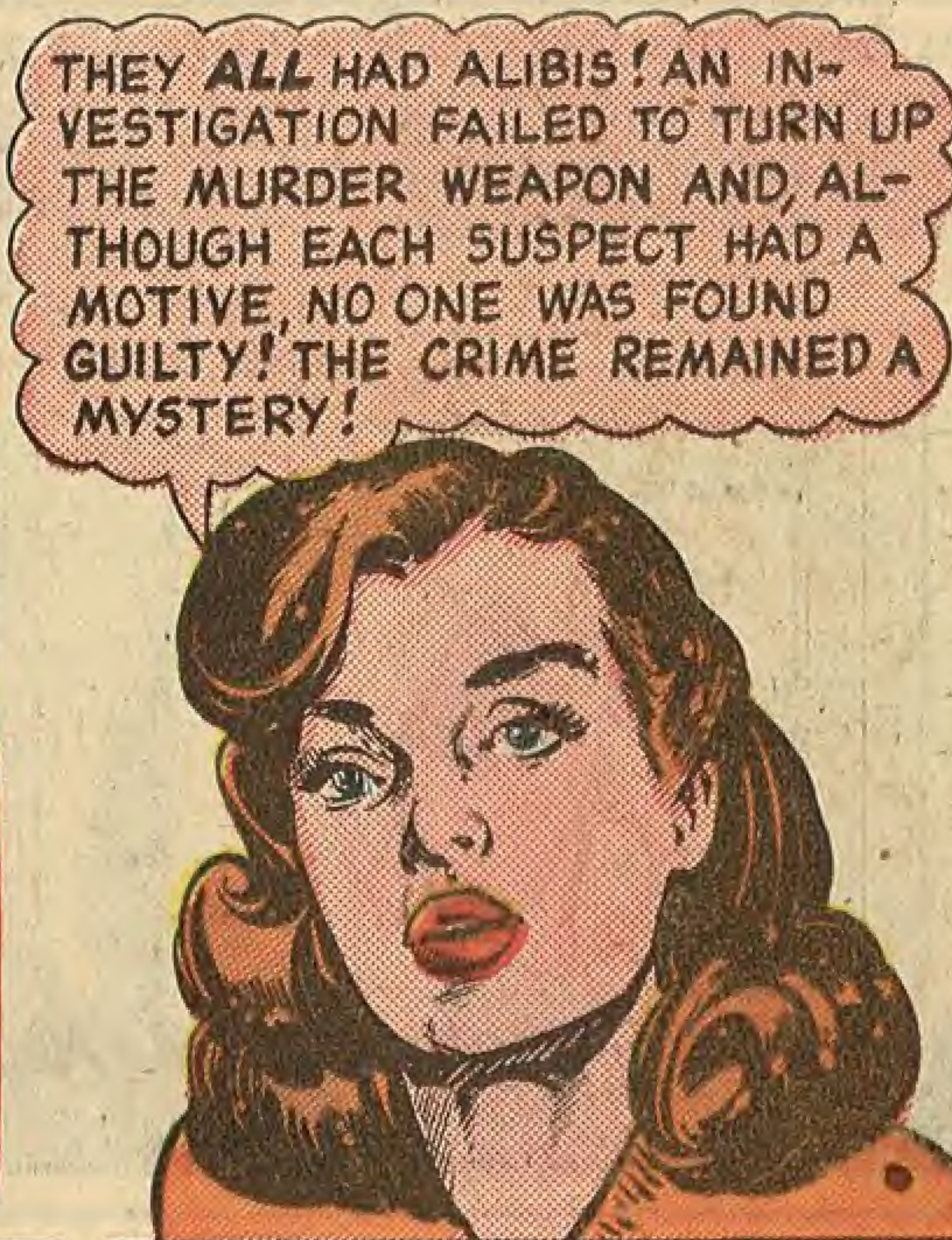
HEH, HEH! FLAVIAN WANTED ME TO DIE SO HE'D GET MY MONEY! BUT I'LL SEE HIM IN HIS GRAVE FIRST AND THE OTHERS, TOO! HEH! HEH!

MR. STONE, PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY!

HEH, HEH, HEH!

HE MUST BE MAD! WHY DOES HE ALWAYS CARRY THAT UMBRELLA?

JUST AN ECCENTRICITY! HE SAYS IT'S FOR PROTECTION! I'M THE ONLY PERSON HE TRUSTS!



Ten minutes later...

WHY DIDN'T SOMEONE THINK OF THAT SHORT-CUT BEFORE? EVEN THE CORONER MUST HAVE TAKEN IT! IF THAT'S THE ANSWER, THE GUILTY PERSON IS--



WRITE THAT NOTE OR I'LL KILL YOU!

GO AHEAD...YOU'LL KILL ME ANYWAY! BUT WHY SHOULD I CONFESS TO YOUR CRIMES OR WRITE A SUICIDE NOTE TO ABSOLVE YOU OF MURDER?



HEH, HEH! YOU'RE CLEVER, WRIGHT! FIRST YOU KILLED FLAVIAN... NOW RUDLEY AND ALICIA! AND I'M TO BE NEXT AND TAKE THE BLAME ON THE BASIS THAT I HATED THEM FOR TRYING TO GET MY MONEY! PAH!

GOOD GRIEF! I WAS RIGHT!



I SAID I'D KILL YOU, AND I WILL! I'LL ---

YOU'VE DONE ALL THE KILLING YOU'RE GOING TO DO!



YOU! HOW DID YOU GET HERE SO FAST?

I CAME THE SHORT-CUT, BY THE RIVER ROAD... THE ONE YOU TOOK TO THE POLICE STATION **AFTER** YOU KILLED FLAVIAN! DID I GET HERE TOO SOON AND SPOIL YOUR PLANS?



NO, BECAUSE NOW I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, TOO! ONE MORE WON'T MATTER!

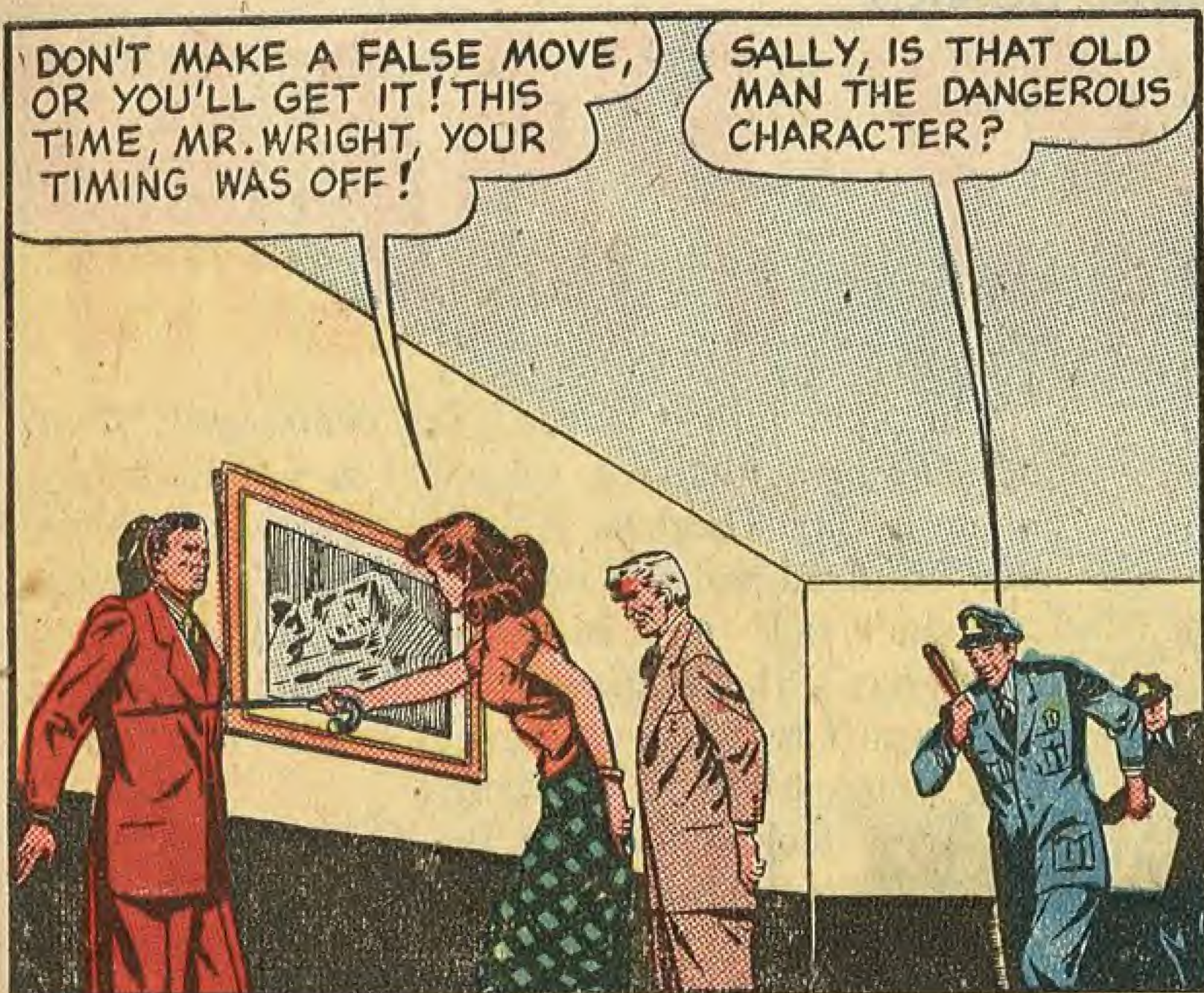
YOU FIEND! WHAT A FRIGHTFUL, CONNIVING BEAST YOU ARE!



BUT I'M QUICKER! DROP THAT SWORD!

YEOW! MY WRIST!





THAT WAS THE STORY! WRIGHT HAD SOUGHT POLICE AID TO ESTABLISH INNOCENCE, TRAVEL TIME WAS HIS ALIBI, AND MR. STONE'S UMBRELLA WAS HIS WEAPON!



CROSS MY PALM

"I CAN'T understand why business has fallen off so badly on the midway," Colonel Lane said, watching the sparse crowd on the circus lot.

"There is quite a bit of sickness in this town," Carnie replied. "There's not much loose money around."

"Madame La Morte doesn't seem to be affected," the Colonel pointed out, gesturing toward the fortune teller's tent. "There has been a crowd waiting outside her place all day."

"When people are worried," Carnie said, "they go to a fortune teller to be cheered up."

"I don't go for that stuff myself," the Barker continued. "I'm sorry you let her join the show."

"The young fellow who just came out of her place doesn't look too happy," the Colonel observed. "He looks like he lost his last friend."

"He probably didn't cross her palm with enough silver," Carnie said, "and she gave him a lousy fortune."

"Let's go over to the ticket wagon and count up today's receipts," he suggested, swinging his barker's cane. "Maybe business isn't as bad as you think."

Inside the wagon the Colonel pushed a stack of bills and silver to the center of a table. "If this keeps up," he groaned, "we won't be able to meet the payroll."

Carnie looked up as the door of the ticket wagon opened softly and a slight figure entered. A mask over the lower part of his face, he was holding a pistol.

"I'll take that money," the intruder said nervously.

"Help yourself," Carnie replied, keeping his eyes on the bandit.

As the robber stepped forward and reached down for the money, the Barker's cane swished through the air, catching him on his wrist.

"My hand!" the man shouted, dropping the pistol. "You've broken it."

Carnie was on the man in an instant, pinning his arms. The colonel rose from his chair and yanked off the bandit's mask. It was the young fellow who had just come out of Madame La Morte's tent.

The Barker set the young man down in a chair and retrieved the gun. "What's the story?" he asked.

The man's face worked for composure, then he said in a tortured voice, "I'm no thief. My name is Carl Hughes. It's just that I must have five hundred dollars immediately. It's my wife. . . . she's sick . . . I'm afraid she's dying."

"What's the money for?" Carnie asked.

"I can't tell," the man said stubbornly. "If I told you, she'd die for sure."

Carnie looked hard at the Colonel and said, "Don't you think we can arrange a loan for Hughes, Colonel Lane?"

"If you say so, Carnie," the Colonel said.

Carnie reached quickly to the table for a stack of money, almost upsetting a bottle of ink in his haste. He counted out the bills into a neat pile and handed them to Hughes.

"Here you are," Carnie said. "Just sign a receipt and you can repay it when we come through here next year." Gratefully the young man scratched his name on the paper and rushed from the wagon.

"That was the silliest thing I ever saw, lending a holdup man money," the Colonel said angrily. "I hope you have a good reason."

Carnie grinned and dragged his boss out of the wagon.

"I marked that money with an inked thumb," he said. "If my idea is right we'll have it back within an hour."

Followed by the puzzled Colonel, Carnie crossed the grounds and burst into Madame La Morte's tent. The Madame, a wrinkled, swarthy woman, was leaning eagerly over the table. Hughes was counting the money into her outstretched hand.

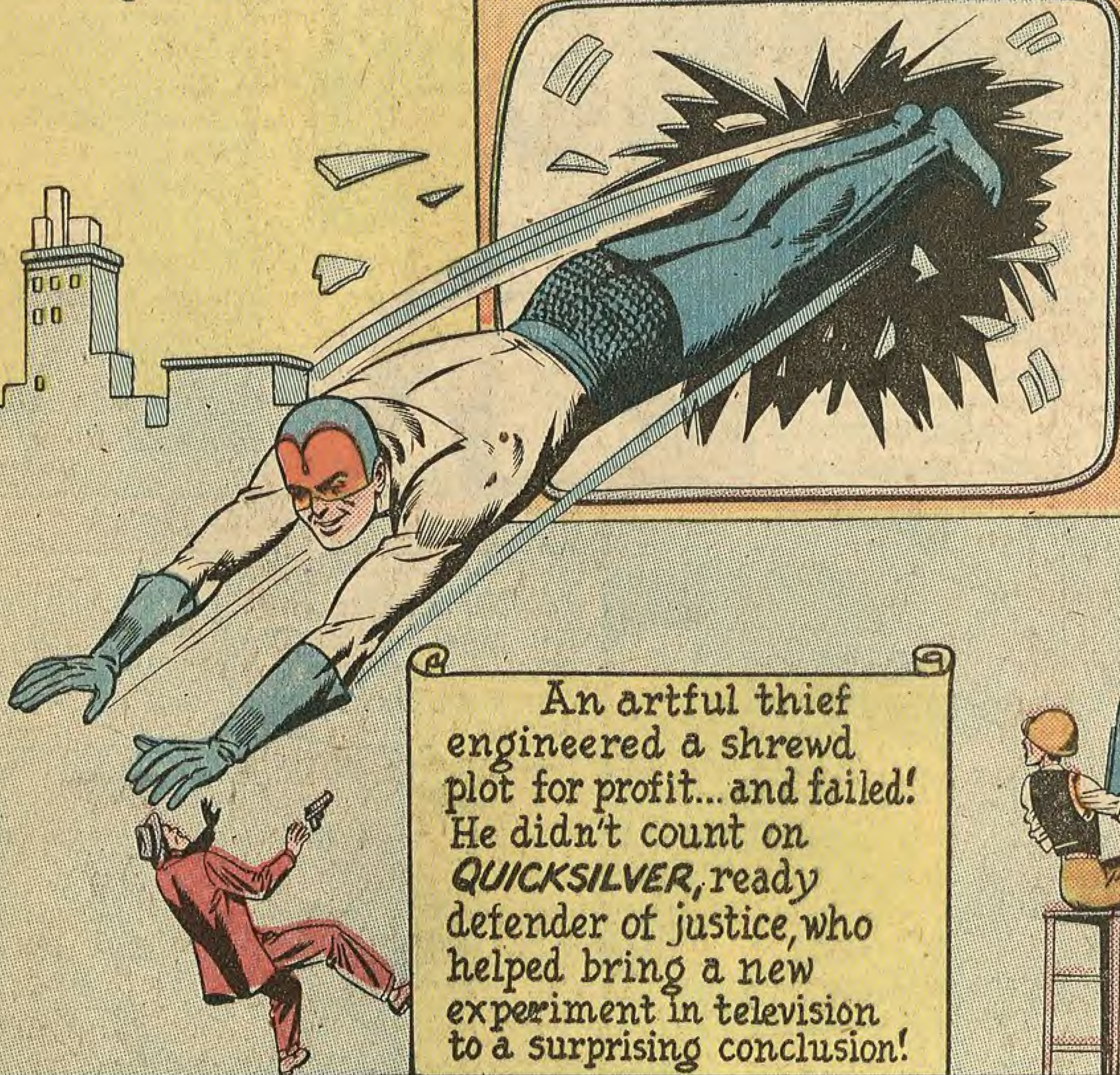
"How did you connect La Morte with a racket, Carnie?" Colonel Lane asked later.

"I didn't, until Hughes said he was afraid to tell us who the money was for. Remember, he had just come from her tent," the Barker answered.

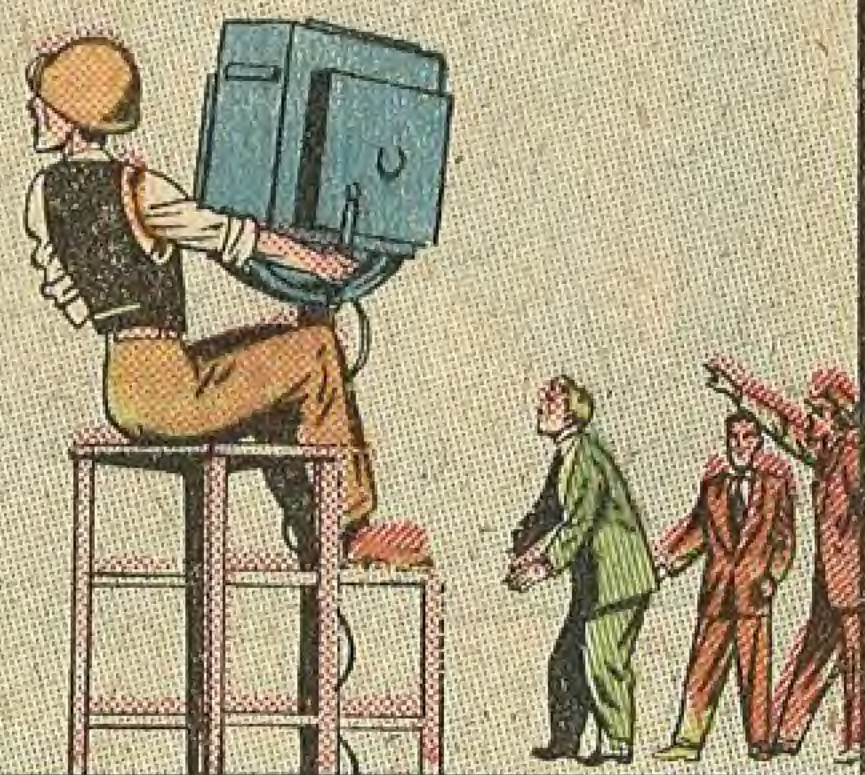
"You see, I got to thinking how superstitious some people are—that they're putty in the hands of shrewd operators like Madame La Morte. She got that young fellow so worked up by giving him a phony story about his wife, that he was willing to do anything to change the future," he concluded.

"Until you turned fortune teller yourself, Carnie, and revealed La Morte's own future—in prison," the Colonel said, lighting a cigar.

QUICKSILVER



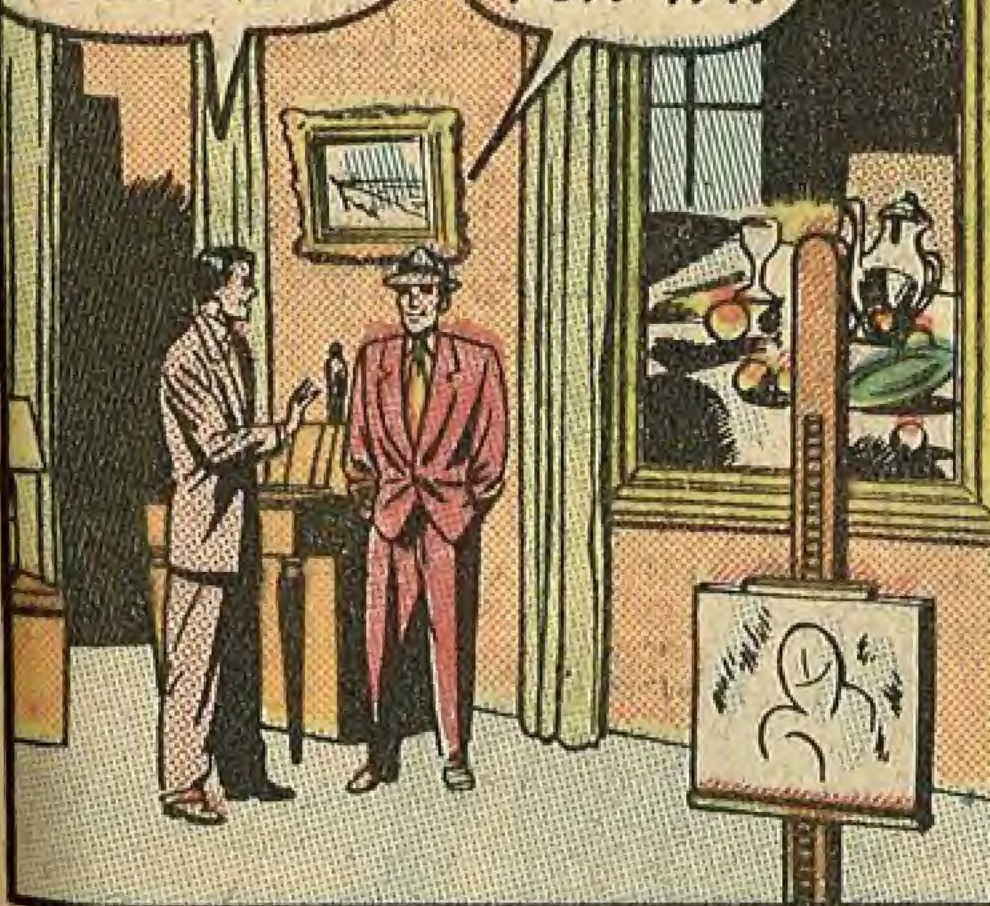
An artful thief engineered a shrewd plot for profit...and failed! He didn't count on **QUICKSILVER**, ready defender of justice, who helped bring a new experiment in television to a surprising conclusion!



At the home of artist Russ Parker...

SORRY, DIXON! MY PAINTINGS AREN'T FOR SALE YET!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, PARKER? AIN'T MY DOUGH GOOD ENOUGH FOR YA?



SURE, BUT I'M GOING TO KEEP THEM AT THE ART EXHIBITION!

AN' I SUPPOSE SOMEONE'LL OFFER YA MORE DOUGH, HUH?



MAYBE! THAT'S RIGHT NOW THEY'RE JUST ON EXHIBIT FOR ALL TO SEE!

O.K., PARKER! THANKS ANYWAY!

NOW I'LL HAFTA SPRING MY PLAN!



Later, at the art exhibition...

AH! NO ONE'S HERE! NOW TO DO A FAST SWITCH JOB! IF I GET AWAY WITH IT, I CAN SELL PARKER'S PAINTING FOR A LOTTA DOUGH!



Minutes later...

THERE! I DID IT... ULP! A GUARD! I HAFTA LAM OUTTA HERE QUICK!



HEY, YOU! WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?

HA! HA! HE MEANS, WHAT'S COMING OFF! I'LL DUCK OUT THROUGH HERE!

HELP! STOP HIM, SOMEBODY!



Outside, as a familiar figure happens along...

QUICKSILVER! JUST THE MAN I WANT TO SEE! A THIEF JUST GOT AWAY IN THAT CAR!!!

TOO LATE TO CATCH HIM NOW! WHAT DID HE STEAL?



I-I DON'T KNOW! HE HAD A PACKAGE... LOOKED LIKE A PAINTING, MAYBE! I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE GUY!

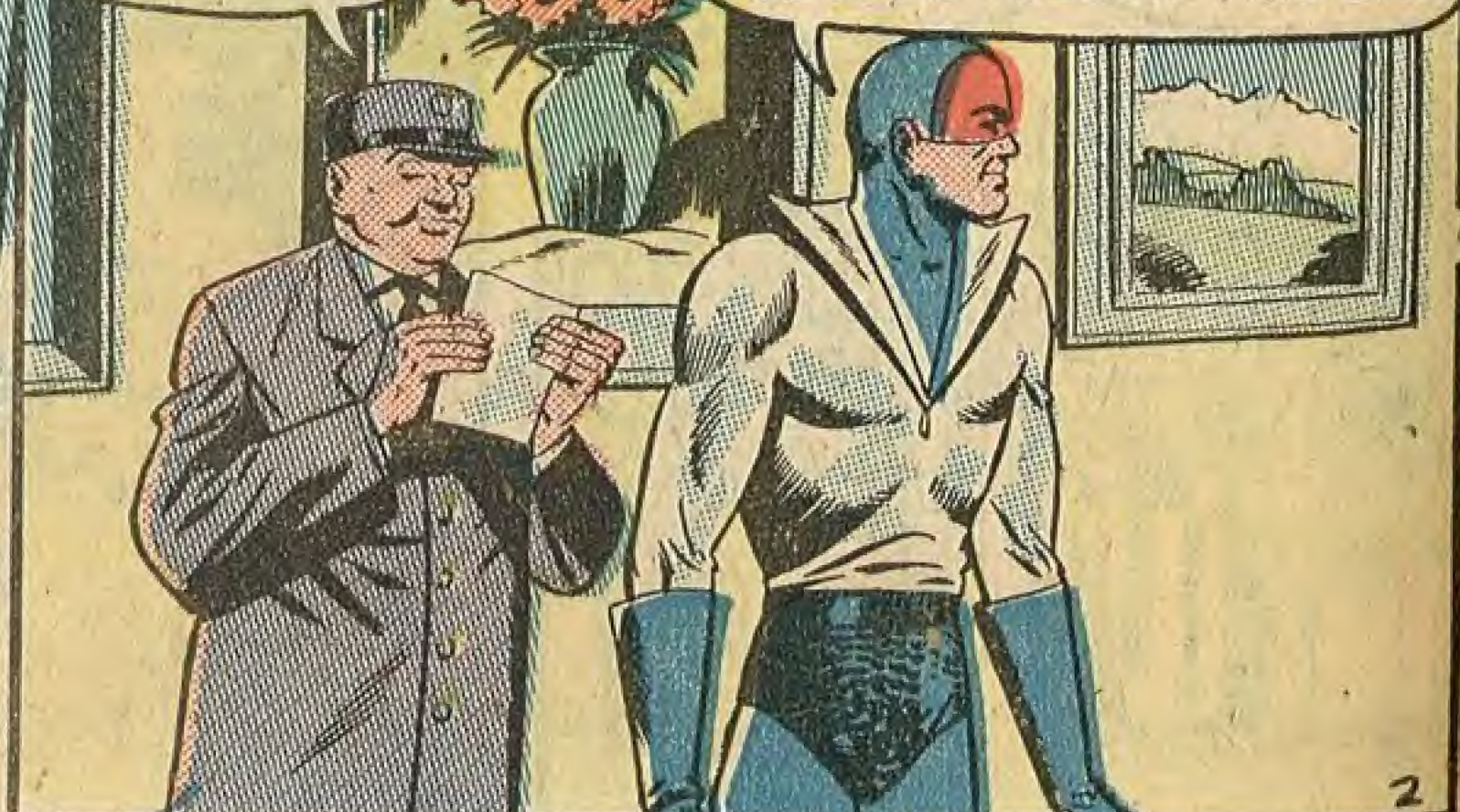
LET'S CHECK ON THE PAINTINGS AND SEE IF ANY ARE MISSING!



Soon...

THAT'S STRANGE! ALL THE PAINTINGS ARE STILL HERE! BUT I COULD HAVE SWORN...

PROBABLY THAT FELLOW WAS JUST A HARMLESS VISITOR! BUT... HMM... I'M TOLD PARKER'S WORK WILL BE TELEVISED TOMORROW! MAYBE I'D BETTER FOLLOW THIS UP...



That night, the news headlines reach a certain reader...

UNE

COLOR TELEVISION SHOW TOMORROW

RUSS PARKER PAINTINGS TO BE TELEVISED FOR TEST. PARKER TO STAY HOME AND VIEW SHOW THROUGH OWN RECEIVER.

HEY! WHAT'S THIS!

THAT TELEVISION SHOW MIGHT TIP SOMEONE OFF ABOUT THE JOB I PULLED! I GOTTA FIGURE A WAY TO STOP 'EM!



Next day, at the Fullvue Television Studios...

O.K., BOYS! THE CAMERAS ARE ALL SET! THERE'S THE STANDBY SIGNAL!

THOSE BEAUTIFUL PAINTINGS WE BORROWED WILL BE PERFECT SUBJECTS FOR OUR COLOR TRANSMITTING TESTS!



While, in the control room...

SCRAM, BUDDY! YOU AIN'T ALLOWED IN HERE!

I... OH! I FEEL FAINT...

HEY! THAT LEVER! LOOK OUT!!



HE FELL AGAINST THE TRANSMITTER AND SHOVED THE LEVER ALL THE WAY DOWN!

YOW! THE ELECTRIC POWER IS OVER-LOADED... FUSES CAN'T TAKE IT! DRAG 'IM AWAY, QUICK!



But Quicksilver, on a nearby rooftop, spots danger...

THAT TELEVISION ANTENNA... SHOOTING OUT SPARKS!!!



MUST BE TROUBLE IN THE FULLVUE STUDIOS! THEY'RE ON THE TOP FLOOR! I'LL HAVE TO USE THAT WINDOW!



PARDON THE INTRUSION, GENTLEMAN! I TOOK A SHORT CUT TO YOUR SHORT CIRCUIT!

QUICK-SILVER!





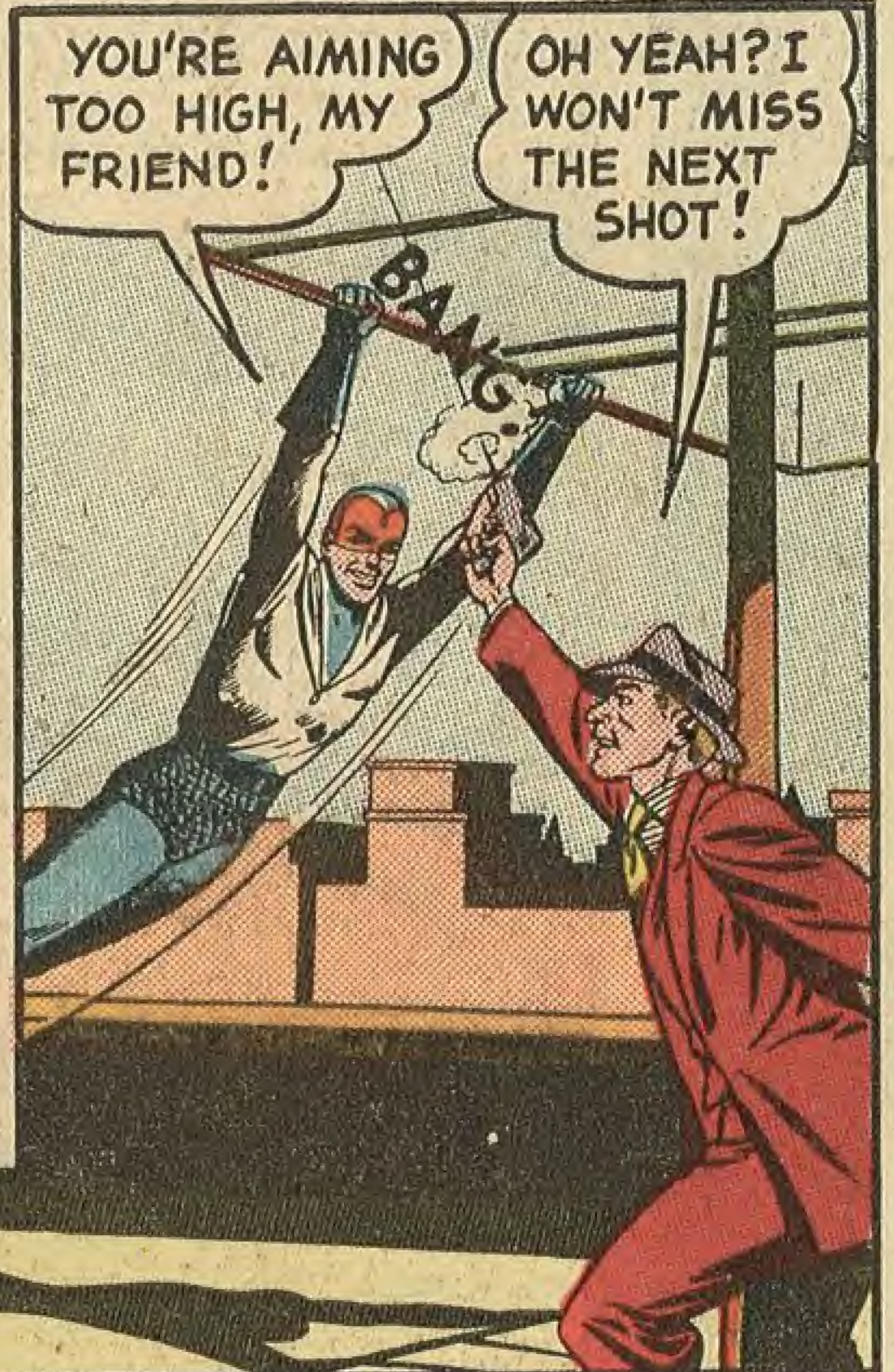


AH! THERE'S THE ANTENNA!
I'M GONNA WRECK IT BEFORE
THAT GUY CATCHES UP TO ME!



NOT SO FAST,
MISTER!

STILL
WITH ME,
EH? MAYBE
SOME HOT
LEAD WILL
STOP YOU!



YOU'RE AIMING
TOO HIGH, MY
FRIEND!

OH YEAH? I
WON'T MISS
THE NEXT
SHOT!



WRONG AGAIN! NOW
IT'S MY TURN TO
PLAY!

OWW!



THIS GUY'S TOO TOUGH
FOR ME! I'D BETTER
DUCK BACK TO THE
STUDIO!

HE'S STILL
GOT THAT
GUN! HE CAN
RUIN EVERY-
THING IF HE
GETS BACK
INTO THE
CONTROL ROOM...



Meanwhile...

MY PAINTINGS LOOK
WONDERFUL ON THE
SCREEN! CLEAR AS A
CRYSTAL! AND HERE I AM,
SEEING THEM RIGHT IN
MY OWN HOME!



WAIT! THAT NEXT PAINTING!
IT.. IT'S MINE... B-BUT SOME-
HOW IT DOESN'T LOOK THE
SAME!



STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933 AND JULY 2, 1946 (39 U.S.C. 233)

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2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member must be given. Everett M. Arnold, Lucas Point, Old Greenwich, Conn.; Claire C. Arnold, Lucas Point, Old Greenwich, Conn.; Comic Magazines, Inc., 378 Summer Street, Stamford, Conn.

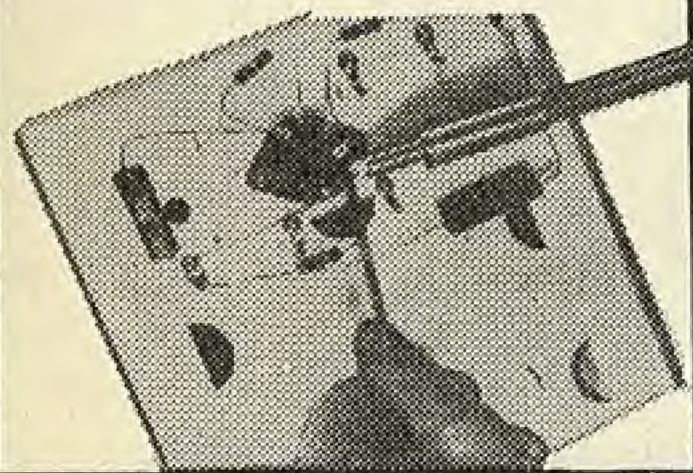
3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none so state) None.

4. The two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting is given, also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner, and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest, direct or indirect, in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

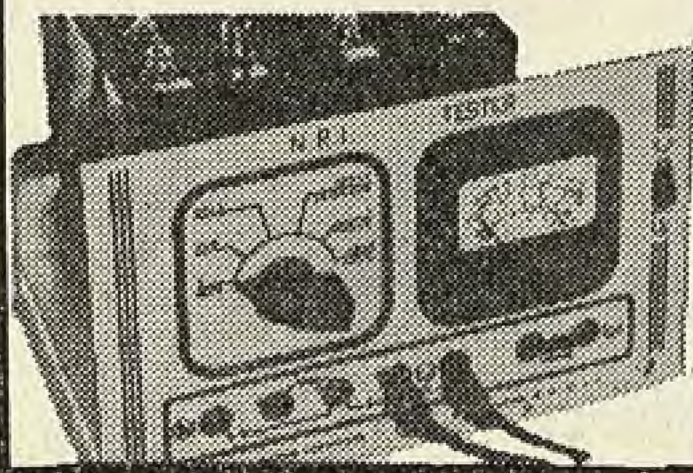
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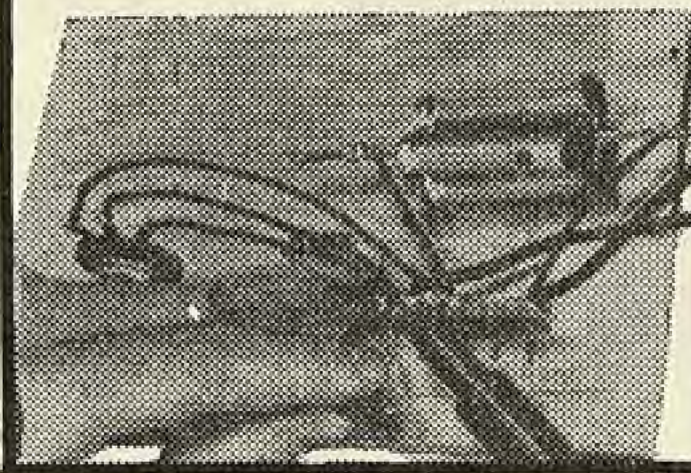
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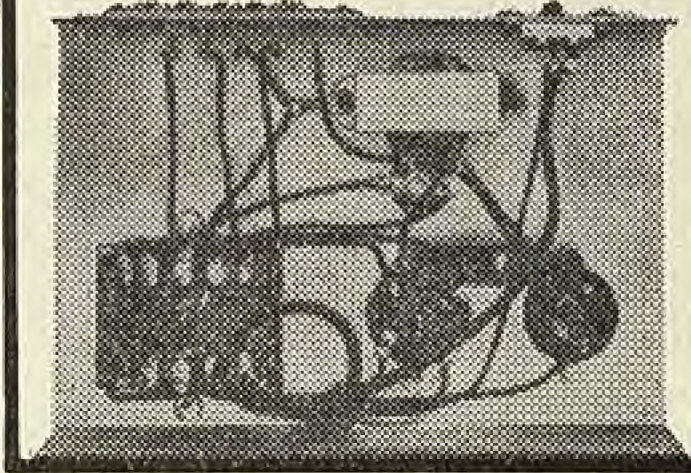
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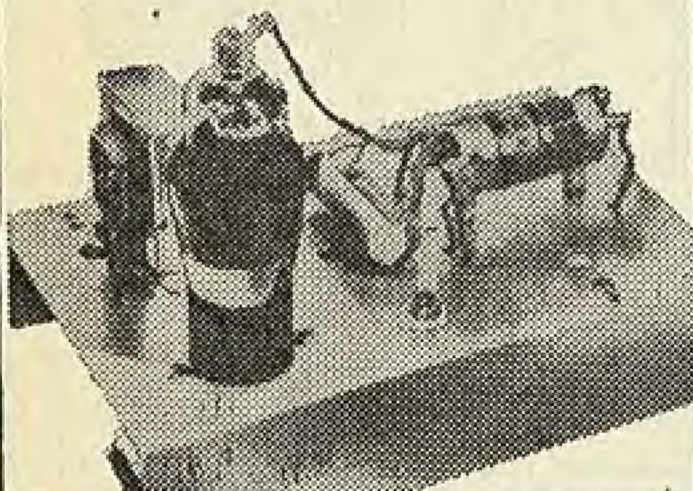
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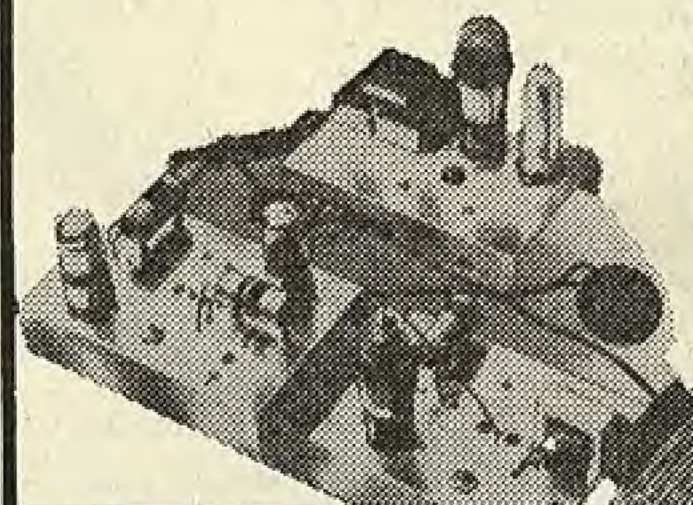
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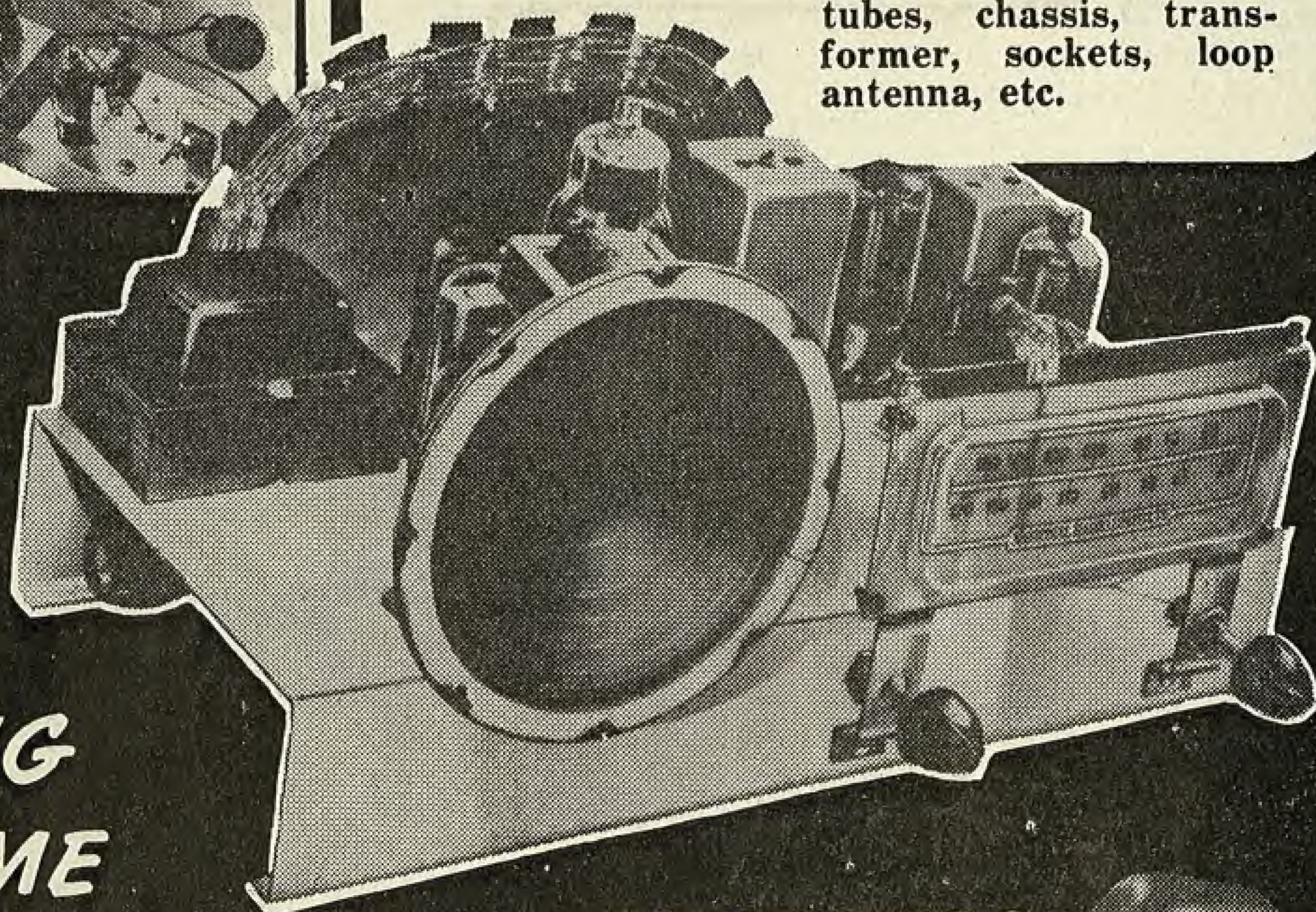


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